



IRAN NEWS



Qatar's Sheikh Al-Thani (R) Received A Message from Yemen's President Saeen Delivered by Yemen Ambassador Al-Saidi, Aug. 31

Sweden's Queen Sylvia Asked the First Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm to End the Plight of Children

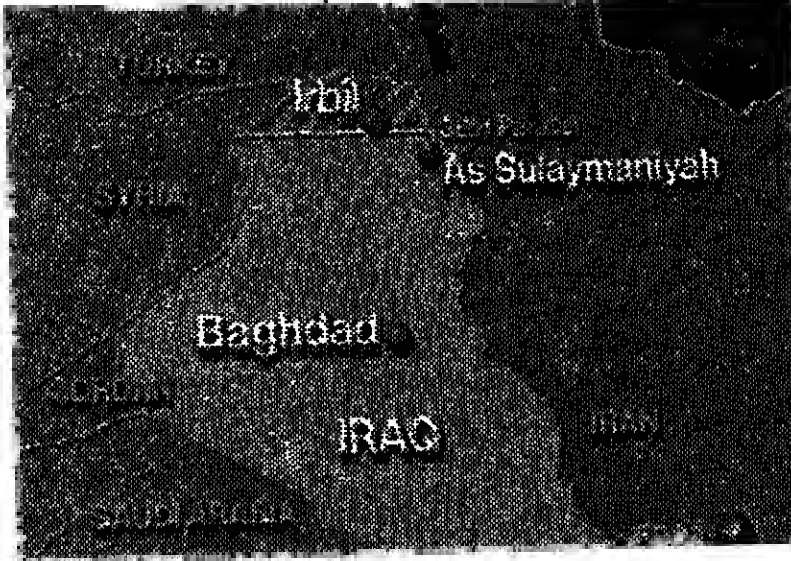


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SADDAM HUSSEIN



NEWS ANALYSIS

Iraq Got the Green Light from U.S. Another Kurdish Town Reportedly Fallen

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Commenting on the recent atrocity by the Baghdad regime in Northern Iraq, a top lawmaker in Tehran said: "The green light" was given to Iraq by the United States for the attack on the Kurdish community.

Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri yesterday said that "undoubtedly Iraq acted after an accord with the United States because without such a coordination, Baghdad could not massacre its innocent people."

Nateq-Nouri, addressing an

open session of the Majlis yesterday, said that "such an attitude from Washington shows American diplomats are confused regarding the regime in Iraq."

A report from Baghdad said the last remaining stronghold of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in Northern Iraq came under attack yesterday after Iraqi troops and their Kurdish allies seized the main city in the region from PUK fighters.

The town of Sulaymaniyah, where PUK Leader Jalal Talabani has taken refuge following Saturday's fall of the city of Arbil to Iraqi forces, came under heavy shelling yesterday, U.N. officials said.

"There are bombardments in Sulaymaniyah," some 200 kilometers southeast of Arbil, which was captured by Iraqi tanks and guerrillas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on Saturday, a U.N. official here said.

He did not say whether Iraqi troops or the KDP was responsible for the shelling of Sulaymaniyah. But an IRNA report yesterday said

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Rafsanjani Starts African Tour Today

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is to start his six-nation African tour today which will take him to Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa, according to a release from the President's Office.

A high ranking politico-economic delegation will accompany Rafsanjani on his African tour, the first to be made by the President since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The tour is considered to be of great significance in political and economic circles given the priority Iran's foreign policy places on expansion of ties with African countries, the release said.

The main topics on the agenda as Rafsanjani meets with the leaders of the six African states will not be just issues of mutual interest, regional and international issues, but will deal with ways to expand economic cooperation, co-operation in international organizations, and the execution of agreements formerly reached by Iran with those countries.

Leader and President Opposed to Amending Constitution



NATEQ-NOURI

BY M. SERJOOTE

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Hojjatollah Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri yesterday said, "The Constitution should not be amended under any circumstances."

At a parliamentary press conference the Speaker stated that: "Any changes in the Constitution will weaken its basic principles. President Rafsanjani, recently told me that he is strongly opposed to any changes to the Constitution."

Nateq-Nouri, a high-ranking member of the Jame-e Rouhaniat-e-Mobarez (JRM), said: "Leader of Islamic Revolution, in a meeting with members of the Fifth Majlis, clearly stated that after President Rafsanjani's term is over, someone else will assume the post."

The Speaker said he believed that the Leader's statement should leave no room for anymore speculations in this regard. "It would be wrong to pursue the matter any further since the Leader of Revolution has clearly expressed his opinion," he said.

Nateq-Nouri was asked what would happen if the Expediency Council recommends that, in the

future under emergency conditions, President Rafsanjani's term of office be extended? He responded: "There is no emergency, and the Expediency Council cannot recommend such a measure."

Left Wing Concerned Over Future of Presidency

In another press conference at the Majlis yesterday, the people's



QOMI

representative from Varamin said: "Mr. Hashemi has eight years of experience in constructive activities, and the nation's construction efforts will suffer when he leaves office."

Mohammad Qomi stated that, "Some have proposed amending the Constitution to enable Mr. Rafsanjani to be elected for a third term."

He added that there is also the

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Muslim Leader in Manila for Peace Pact Signing

MANILA (AFP) - Muslim leader Nur Misuari arrived here yesterday from Indonesia to sign a peace pact today with the Philippine government ending a 24-year Islamic insurgency that has left 120,000 people dead in the country's south, officials said.

Misuari, chairman of the autonomy-seeking Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), was greeted by some 500 Filipino Muslims waiting in drizzling rain to welcome him, waving the red and yellow banner of the MNLF.

The 55-year-old former university professor, wearing a business suit and a Muslim hat, raised a clenched fist and shouted "Allah Is Great."

About 30 soldiers from the army's special forces and MNLF regulars threw a tight security cordon around him. MNLF and military sources had earlier expressed fears that Islamic extremists could harm Misuari to sabotage the talks.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was on the same plane, along with officials of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). They will witness the signing at 9:00 a.m. (01:00 GMT) today at the presidential palace.

Indonesia chaired an OIC committee that supervised the three-year-long peace talks.

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Netanyahu-Arafat Meeting Soon

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave his clearest indication yet yesterday that he would meet Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat soon, saying "all kinds of developments" were taking place that opened the door for such an encounter.

"A meeting with Arafat will take place when developments permit, and in fact there are currently all sorts of developments underway," he said in an interview on Israeli army radio.

Netanyahu gave no firm date but after weeks of refusing to commit himself to a face-to-face encounter with Arafat, it was his clearest statement to date that he intends to meet the Palestinian leader soon.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also hinted clearly at a quick summit between the two men.

"I hope very much that in the coming days there will be meetings between myself and the prime minister with the leaders of the Palestinian Authority and that we will find ways to ease tensions and improve our relations," he said in a radio interview.

Israeli public radio quoted senior officials in Netanyahu's office as saying the meeting could take place this week at the Erez crossing from the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip into Israel.

Palestinian Leaders Attend Protest Mass

JERUSALEM - Senior Palestinian officials attended Sunday mass in the church of the Holy Sepulchre as part of a campaign to reaffirm Palestinian claims on the holy city, but appeals for a mass turnout by Christians at the service went unheeded.

Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, led a delegation that included several ministers in the self-rule government of Yasser Arafat to the service in the church that Christian tradition says marks the sight where Jesus was crucified and resurrected.

Mussa Links Economic Conference to Hebron Pullout

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT - Foreign Minister Amr Mussa said yesterday that Egypt would not convene a regional economic conference set for November in Cairo unless Israel carried out its delayed withdrawal from Hebron.

Mussa said the third Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference was discussed in a meeting here earlier yesterday between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and President Hosni Mubarak.


"It is unimaginable to conceive that the economic conference will take place before a withdrawal from Hebron," Mussa told a joint news conference with visiting Is-

raeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

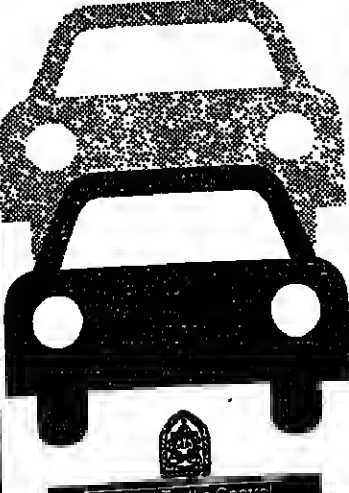
"If Israel and the Palestinians reach an agreement on a Hebron pullout and that accord is not implemented, it will not be enough," he said.

"Progress must be made on the ground. Progress is not in words alone," Mussa said.

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Do you know
Double-parking has formed
25% of traffic violations recorded by electronic surveillance



SUMMARY



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SDA Rally Near Sarajevo
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Galimberti, First Week Winner at SAT 96
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IRAN NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Child Abuse, an Alarming Phenomenon

A five-day international conference aimed at drawing up a global action plan to control child sexual abuse, pedophilia and child pornography concluded Saturday with a note of disappointment expressed by many participants.

Observers believe that the issue is very complicated and has its roots in the very structure of the world's social fiber. Sexual exploitation of minors is a worldwide problem and poverty is the main cause. In some countries, such as Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Nepal human beings have become a commodity which can be bought and sold. Despite the sharp increase in economic growth of many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is growing wider and wider.

A recent U.N. report rightly maintained that despite progress in many developing nations, the world's poorest people are 'not enjoying the fruits' of the last few decades of economic prosperity.

Another report said while in the past 50 years the world's wealth has multiplied sevenfold, three-quarters of it is in the hands of just 20 percent of the world's population. The poor own only 1.4 percent of the world's wealth, down from 2.3 percent in 1952.

These statistics are startling, and it is obvious that in the light of these facts a five-day conference like the one held in Stockholm could only serve as a starting point for such a widespread and global social malady.

UNICEF estimates that one million children a year are forced into child prostitution.

As long as poverty and disparity of wealth exist in the world, we should not expect things to improve. Observers rightly point out a common complaint regarding the final declaration of the Stockholm Conference and say due attention was not paid to the impact of poverty on child sexual abuse phenomenon.

True, the delegates had adopted a non-binding declaration and action plan which called for the prevention, protection and rehabilitation of victims, and proposed stiffer legislation and increased cooperation.

But history tells us that 'stiffer legislation' alone can not solve any problem. What we need to do is to awaken the conscience of the common people worldwide through a specific plan implemented by using the existing scientific technology.

At present, the satellite is the best available medium for carrying the message across the world simultaneously. Unfortunately, its misuse by certain countries, both in the West and the East, forced some countries, including Iran, to ban this mass communication tool.

We should explore the possibility of properly using satellite networks for this and other worthwhile endeavors.

Finally, we have to find a mechanism to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. The United Nations can be the best platform where economists and social experts can search and find the best possible guidelines to be followed by all countries.

The present condition of the children of the poor, and the abuses they suffer, are very alarming. A sincere and strong will among the world's governments is needed to eradicate this menace.

Speaker Denounces German Court Decision Against Iran

IRAN NEWS PARLIAMENTARY DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Hojjatolislam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri here yesterday strongly criticized the German government for allowing a former Iranian president to testify in a trial on the 1992 murder of four Kurdish leaders in Berlin.

Addressing the open session of the Majlis, he said angrily: "Do you understand what you are doing? In hearing false testimony from a deposed president accused of hijacking a plane you are supporting terrorism." "This is an insult to Iranian people," he added.

A court in Berlin, suspecting Iranian leaders of involvement in the murder of the four Iranian Kurdish opposition figures, invited Abolhassan Banisadr to testify during the trial of an Iranian and four Lebanese charged with carrying out the killings in September 1992.

German authorities have already issued a warrant for the arrest of Iran's Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian.

"The German authorities are behaving like an ostrich. On the one hand they organize a campaign against the Iranian people, and on the other, they say they favor dialogue with Iran," Nateq-Nouri said.

"We want a dialogue with you but that doesn't mean we need you," he added, charging that European countries "have become a haven for terrorists who launched deadly attacks against Iranian leaders."

Nateq-Nouri expressed hope that Germany will act more wisely and change its attitude towards the dignified nation of Iran. Condemning the d'Amato Bill, the Majlis Speaker said the plan disgraced the U.S., adding it was so unwise that it brought honor for Iran

and isolation for Washington.

As part of their election campaigns and in a bid to divert the public opinion from domestic problems, American statesmen have taken position against Iran, he said regarding this as a disgrace for the Americans.

Hojjatolislam Nateq-Nouri added that Clinton's tenure brought nothing for the U.S. but scandal and disgrace.

Further in his address he described the Middle East peace plan as a move aimed at deceiving the Arab states. Now the Arabs themselves have come to realize that the plan was nothing but trampling on the rights of the Palestinian people. Turning to the Government's Week (August 23-29), the Majlis Speaker praised performance of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's Cabinet saying the enthusiastic presence of people in the scene was a token of gratitude



to the government and officials of the system, IRNA reported.

He reminded that the impacts of what has been carried out by Rafsanjani's administration will be realized in future and only then one could make a judgment on the great achievements.

Rafsanjani Congratulates Malaysia on National Day

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hojjatolislam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday sent a message of felicitation to Malaysian Monarch Tuanku Ja'afar Inbi al-Marhum Tuanku Abdulrahman and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on the occasion of the National Day of Malaysia.

President Rafsanjani, in his message to the Malaysian monarch and prime minister, has expressed hope that relations between Iran and Malaysia would continue to broaden in political, cultural and economic areas.

President Rafsanjani, in another message Saturday to Libyan President Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, congratulated him on the occasion of Libya's Revolution Day, September 1st.

He hoped that pressure on Libya by the international arrangement would shortly be lifted, IRNA reported.

Latest Developments in Northern Iraq Discussed



SANA'ATI



AS-SAADUN

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Gholam-Ali Sana'ati and Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Ahmad Abd al-Aziz as-Saadun in a meeting yesterday discussed the latest developments in Northern Iraq as well as bilateral ties.

The two officials also exchanged views on coordinating the activities of the two countries' parliamentary and friendship

groups.

In a separate meeting, Sana'ati and the Kuwaiti Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Ahmad Khaled al-Kolaib, talked about bilateral relations and joint cooperation in making use of the two countries' skilled manpower, according to IRNA.

Formation of a joint labor committee was another topic brought up by the two officials.

Afghan Official Expresses Gratitude for Iran Liberal Aids

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Abdulrahman Ghafurzi in Kabul Saturday expressed Afghanistan's appreciation for the Islamic Republic Iran's liberal aids.

He met Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Communications, Morteza Sarmadi, telling the Iranian envoy that the Afghan government looked forward to broadening relations with Iran in all areas.

Sarmadi responded by hoping that the Afghan government would manage to keep talks with rival groups from collapsing so that the present crisis would be resolved, IRNA reported.

Sarmadi also referred to the progress made by a joint economic commission of the two countries and observed that Iran would be more than willing to offer her post-war rehabilitation experience to neighboring Afghanistan.

Rafsanjani Receives the New Malaysian, Philippine Ambassadors

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The new Philippine and Malaysian ambassadors to Iran submitted their credentials to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in separate meetings here Sunday, IRNA reported.

Philippine Ambassador Haron P. Alonto, conveyed Filipino President Fidel Ramos' warm and sincere greetings to Rafsanjani and thanked the Iranian President for Iran's efforts to restore peace in the Philippines.



Photo by Adbi

Alonto said that Philippine officials attached special significance to deepening and expanding their country's ties with Iran.

The President welcomed expansion of bilateral ties in all areas. He also said he was satisfied with the efforts of the Manila government to see to the situation of Muslims in southern parts of the Philippines and said Iran was ready to invest in those Muslim-populated areas.

In a separate meeting, new Malaysian Ambassador Mohammed Khalis bin Ali Hassan conveyed the Malaysian king's greetings to the Iranian nation and government.



Photo by Adbi

مکاتبات الأمل

IRAN
DOMESTIC NEWS

RAVI WRITES

Malaysian Ambassador Khalis Hosts Independence Day Reception

Malaysian Ambassador Mohammad Khalis surprised a large number of his guests when he served tasty Malaysian food at the Esteghlal Hotel on Saturday evening.

The occasion was the anniversary of Malaysian independence, and the chief guest was Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Protocol Head Bahman Husseinpour, Director General Mohammad Ganjidoost and Ministry of Commerce Director General Manouchehr Fallah were also among other Iranian and foreign diplomats.



(From left) Khalis, Velayati and Boroujerdi



(From left) Husseinpour, Fallah, Majid



Staff of the Malaysian Embassy along with Ambassador Khalis

Malaysian Ambassador Khalis, his deputies Abdul Majid bin Rajab, Mohamad Ouzi bin Haji Dahman, Mohamad Noh and Mohamad Hassan were all wearing their country's traditional dress with songkok (cap), Bajumelayu (long coat) and sampin (a piece of cloth Malaysians wrap around the middle part of their body).

The food was prepared by the wives of Malaysian diplomats including the wife of Ambassador Khalis, Sharifah Jaafar. Mrs. Bashah, wife of Counselor Majid told IRAN NEWS: "It took two days for us to cook all the food."

"Well, we thought it's better if we serve Malaysian food to our guests on our National Day," Bashah said. Others who helped in preparing food were Mrs. Normala, Mrs. Asiman, Mrs. Daoyah, Miss Zawah and Mrs. Khaulah.

Foreign Minister Velayati greeted Ambassador Khalis and wished all success for his country. He told Khalis that he is expecting to meet Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the U.N. General Assembly session, scheduled to start from Sept. 23.

Talking to IRAN NEWS, Velayati, who works almost 15 to 16 hours every day, said he will accompany President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on his six-nation African tour.

Commenting on the Northern Iraq situation, Velayati agreed with IRAN NEWS that a tripartite meeting of Iran, Syria and Turkey should be held to discuss the situation there. He said Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's proposal of four-way talks on the issue should be decided by the tripartite meeting.

Boroujerdi is just back from a visit to Pakistan. Indian Ambassador Siddharth Singh and Bangladesh Ambassador Syed Muazzem Ali were talking to him, we noticed.

Talking to IRAN NEWS, Boroujerdi disclosed that he is planning to visit India and said he was looking forward to nice weather.

Pakistan Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Qatar Ambassador Ali Abdul Aziz al-Kwari, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Erich Martin Battenhauser, Britain Charge d'Affaires Jeffrey James, Yemen Ambassador Abdullah Ali al-Radhi, Palestinian Ambassador Salah Zawawi and Philippine Embassy Charge d'Affaires Mari-

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Cooperatives Effective for Social Justice, Rafsanjani



Photo by Abdi

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday attended a ceremony here marking the opening of 390 manufacturing and service cooperatives across the country.

In his inaugural statement, Rafsanjani said that cooperatives, despite the opposition of many people, had become a powerful means of administering social justice, IRNA reported.

The President said: "Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is principally supporting the cooperatives

Iran Welcomes Opening of Strategic Salang Highway in Afghanistan



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, here yesterday stressed that Iran will support the opening of 'Salang' Highway and exchange of prisoners of war between the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan and the Afghan government.

He said that the two important issues were reviewed by the Iranian government and the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan during his several trips to Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif.

He voiced Iran's satisfaction with the solving of such crucial issues and expressed hope that such a measure would produce fruitful results in future.

Boroujerdi said that discussions held between the Kabul government and the Islamic Unity Party is also important, adding that the Iranian government hopes that it may witness agreement to be concluded between those who are at odds with each other today.

The strategic Salang Highway connects Kabul to Afghanistan's northern region, as well as the Central Asian republics, IRNA reported.

and has proved that cooperatives are the most sustainable means of bringing about social justice."

The ceremony was held on the occasion of Cooperatives Week at the Ministry of Cooperatives.

The Minister, Gholamreza Shafei, said that out of the 300 cooperatives to start operations today, 196 were in the industrial and mining sectors, 173 were for agriculture and 41 were in the service sectors.

Their total capital was 223 billion rials, he said, some 70 billion rials of which was provided by members of the cooperatives.

Shafei pointed out that cooperatives had created 15,000 jobs throughout the country.

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN

SURA 63. THE HYPOCRITES (AL-MUNAAFIQUN)

In the Name of God

The Beneficent, the Merciful
In fact they are as blocks of timber,
Propped up against a wall.
They think that every, blaring call
Is meant to be against them;
They are the enemy, beware of them,
May God get rid of them!
How wayward they've become!

(F.N.)

*The 30th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: RASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-5

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	13:04
Evening (Maghreb)	19:50
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:01
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:37

Leader Pays Tribute to Isfahan's Martyred Youths

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Leader, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, on Saturday paid a personal tribute to Isfahan's youths and people martyred in battlefronts during the Iraq-Iran War.

In a message to a congress that paid tribute to the memory of martyrs, he said that in his various visits to towns and cities throughout Iran in previous years, he had frequently seen young devoted persons from Isfahan Province assigned to military posts and func-

tions outside of the province with the idea of building military establishments.

He said that this was proof of the capacity of Isfahan's youths, IRNA reported.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said that the task of paying tribute to the martyrs' memory must be done with a view to offering models to the Iranian youths.

He hoped that administrators in other Iranian provinces would copy the congress in Isfahan and

See Page 13

... و اکنون پرواز مستقیم هفتگی بالکان ایرلاینز تهران - وارانای «بلغارستان» فقط ۲۳۵ هزار تومان

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Afghan Official Expresses Gratitude for Iran Liberal Aid

The New Ambassador

Balance of Trade \$1.7b in First Quarter of 1375

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - During the first quarter of 1375 (March 21-June 20, 1996) the nation's balance of trade settled at \$1.7b and the balance of current account at \$1.2b, which was a positive development, said Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Mohsen Nourhakhsh yesterday.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Seventh Islamic Banking Seminar held here, Nourhakhsh added that the nation's monetary performance was better than a year ago.

Nourhakhsh said in 1374 (March 20, 1995-March 19, 1996) the nation's balance of trade was \$5.5b and that of current account \$3.2b.

He said the growth of liquidity during the first four months of

1375 was four percent, down by 2.7 percent compared to a 6.7 percent growth in the same period last year.

"This reduces the pressure of inflation and strengthens the rial," said the bank governor adding that in Tir 1375 (21 June-21 July, 1996) 10.3 percent of the liquidity was concentrated outside the banking system compared to a 11.3 percent liquidity last year, showing a better economy.

Nourhakhsh said during the first four months of 1375 (March 20/July 21, 1996) the amount of deposits in the banking system was up by 6.6 percent and its volume in the month of Tir was 79 trillion rials which shows that the banking system has performed better compared to the preceding year.

Nourhakhsh said during the year 1374 the banking system was supposed to pay 921 billion rials credit to the agricultural sector but actually paid 1,611 billions rials. Also 1,235 billion rials credit was approved for payment to the industry and mining sector which was raised to 2,708 billion rials, nearly double the estimated figure.

He said CBI was paying back the nation's debt on schedule and expected a better economy in 1375 compared to the preceding year. Ayatollah Mousavi Bojnourdi, a religious scholar, said only if the CBI meticulously follows a non-interest banking system and becomes free from government control will it succeed.

"The banking system is the guardian of the people's deposits

and should pay their profits in a manner that in the face of inflation it would not end in loss," Bojnourdi added.

Ayatollah Rezvani, a member of the Guardians' Council said that the materialization of the Islamic banking system does not depend only on the elimination of interest.

"The final objective of the Islamic banking is to create a healthy Islamic economy that can look after people's welfare and well-being," said Rezvani adding that banking operations minus interest is a very good law which needs correct implementation to bear fruit.

The seminar which will close today is attended by experts and scholars well versed in monetary matters to discuss Islamic banking system.

Afro-Asian Insurance Conference Convenes

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - A 2-day International Credit Insurance Conference starts here tomorrow, convened through the cooperation of Iran Central Insurance Co. and the Federation of Afro-Asian Insurance and Reinsurers (FAIR), a leading insurance authority said.

Mohammad Assudeh, deputy of Iran Central Insurance Co. and executive secretary of the seminar, told the press that the participating countries include Belgium, Greece, England, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, China, Tunisia, Turkey, Pakistan, Italy, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Libya, Sudan, Lebanon and Tanzania.

The seminar is aimed at publicizing the insurance industry, expanding the insurance culture and optimizing the experiences of other countries in domestic and export insurance.

Currently, President of Iran Central Insurance Co., Dr. Abdol-Nasser is the vice president of FAIR. 165 insurance companies from 51 countries are members of FAIR.

Iran's Labor Minister Leaves for Baku

BAKU (IRNA) - Hussien Kamali, Iran's minister of labor and social affairs will leave for Baku on a two-day official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan today.

Kamali is expected to hold a meeting with the Deputy Chairman of Azeri Milli Majlis (National Assembly) and Co-chairperson of Irano-Azeri Joint Cooperation Commission, Yashar Aliyev and the Azeri minister of labor and social affairs.

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مکانهای اهل



IRAN

WORLD

NEWS

September 2, 1996 PAGE 13

Pakistan Shot Down Indian Army Helicopter

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - An newspaper here yesterday claimed an Indian military helicopter which crashed last Monday in Himalayan Kashmir had been shot down by Pakistani soldiers.

The Indian Express daily, quoting "top level" defense sources, said the air force helicopter carrying six personnel was brought down on the Siachen glacier by a shoulder-fired missile.

"It is still not clear how exactly they brought down the chopper, but it appears the Pakistanis fired a missile," the mass-circulation

daily quoted a defense source here as saying.

An Indian army spokesman, however, on Tuesday attributed the crash on the 18,000-foot (5,454-meter) high glacier to mechanical failure.

Two officers and four soldiers died when the Soviet-built helicopter exploded in a ball of fire while carrying essential stores to Indian troops posted near the heavily militarized border.

The Express said a probe has been ordered. In 1993 Indian troops shot down a Pakistani helicopter in Siachen with an anti-tank rocket, killing a brigadier.

Thousands of Indian and Pakistani troops face each other in the icy wasteland of Siachen and often trade small-arms and mortar fire.

71% Increase in Number of Tourists

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - Travel agencies affiliated to Tourist and Recreation Organization (TRO) of Mostafazan and Janbazan Foundation have succeeded in attracting a total of 1,979 tourists during the first three months of the current year (began Mar. 20) to visit historical and cultural sights and natural landscapes.

Tourists from Japan, Germany, Austria, Belgium, England, Italy, France, Russia, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Greece, Armenia, Uzbekistan, India and the Persian Gulf littoral states traveled to Iran on sightseeing tours. They visited Isfahan, Shiraz, Hamedan, Tehran, Qom, Kashan, Mashhad, Bam, Kerman and Yazd.

The German tourists outnumbered the other nationalities. There was a 71 percent increase in the number of tourists in the first quarter of the current Iranian year compared to the same period last year.

Aliiev Discusses Relations with Iran's Charge d'Affaires

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Azeri National Assembly Deputy Chairman Yashar Aliiev met Iran's Charge d'Affaires Afshar Soleimani in Baku Saturday.

He said that his government is determined to broaden relations with Iran.

He said in a meeting last week with a number of Azeri government officials, among them ministers of trade, agriculture, energy, and foreign economic relations.

He had reviewed the ways and means for promoting relations with Iran.

And A. Dumia were also there enjoying the reception. Yemeni Ambassador Al-Radhi told us that his father, Mr. Ali Mohammed, 86, is due to visit him soon. He is a dervish and will be visiting Iran for the first time.

All the guests were busy enjoying Malaysian food, but we noticed the Danish Embassy's Diplomat Martin Mikkelsen and his wife Elisabeth sitting in a corner. "Aren't you eating anything?" We asked the couple.

Mikkelsen said: "No we are vegetarians and neither of us eat non-veg food." Mikkelsen told IRAN NEWS that he decided to become vegetarian after seeing the conditions of cattle in a grazing field.

"That day I decided that I'd never eat animal," Mikkelsen said, adding that his wife had been vegetarian from early childhood. "We both are fully satisfied and never miss non-veg food," Mikkelsen said.

Esteghlal Hotel Guest Service Manager Ghulamali Akhlaghi was also there and told us that "our guests prefer to read IRAN NEWS".

"The Palestinian Authority (PA) has decided to release all detainees who have no charges pending against them," he told AFP.

Officials declined to say how many of the hundreds of Islamic militants arrested following the suicide attacks in February and March remained in PA jails, but they were believed to number fewer than 200.

Saturday's releases came amid a series of moves by Arafat to calm Palestinian popular frustration with his lack of success in keeping up the pace of the peace process since the rightwing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in Israel in June.

Bahrain Frees 100 Shias

MANAMA, BAHRAIN - Bahrain has released 100 Shia Muslims detained during the anti-government unrest which has shaken the Persian Gulf Arab archipelago in the last two years, judicial sources and officials said yesterday.

Judicial sources said 100 detainees had been released while an official spokesman said a "certain number of people arrested during the unrest were released after their involvement in it was not proven."

The authorities say the total number detained does not exceed 1,000 while the opposition claims more than 2,000 people are in prison.

At last 24 people have died in the unrest which erupted in December 1994 with mainly Shia Muslim demands for the restoration of the Parliament which the Sunni Muslim-led government suspended in 1975.

Austrian Chancellor Meets Netanyahu

JERUSALEM - Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky became the first foreign leader to meet here with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday at the start of a two-day official visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Vranitzky met Netanyahu at his Jerusalem office and then hosted an official lunch for the Austrian leader.

The Austrian chancellor was due to meet Israeli President Ezer Weizman later yesterday before traveling to Gaza City early today for talks with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Israel-Lebanon Cease-fire Committee Meets

BEIRUT, LEBANON - The committee monitoring the cease-fire on the Israeli-Lebanese border met for the third time yesterday in Naqura in Southern Lebanon at Israel's request, U.N. sources said.

Israel called the meeting to protest against a Hizbollah attack August 29 which wounded two Lebanese civilians near the village of Sibin in the Jewish state's self-declared security zone in Southern Lebanon.

possibility that a wing (faction) will come to power which would try to hold sway over all the branches of government to the detriment of the country's future.

A member of the Assembly of the Followers of the Imam's Line of Thought, Qomi said this proposal is set forth due to concerns for the future of presidency in the country.

"The JRM and the Association of Islamic Coalition are endeavoring to win the presidential elections to make their own views dominant and appoint their members to various posts," he said.

"I believe no wing alone can run the affairs of the country, and all revolutionary forces should work in unison," he stressed.

The Varamin Representative added that if Mir Hussein Musavi, who is supported by most wings, becomes a candidate for presidency, he can continue the path of President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"Because of his experiences during the war years, the support he received from Imam Khomeini, the fact that he enjoys the confidence of the Majlis, together with the excellent reputation he earned as the prime minister, Musavi is highly qualified for presidency. Others are not as qualified as he or President Hashemi," Qomi added.

Responding to statements made by Majlis Speaker Nateq-Nouri who said the Leader had rejected amending the Constitution, Qomi stated, "Naturally, we all heed the Leader's guidelines who said after Mr. Hashemi, another prominent person will stand at the helm. But, the Leader did not explicitly say that the Constitution should not be amended. The statements of Mr. Nateq-Nouri are merely his interpretation of the Leader's words." He concluded by saying that, "The JRM and the Association of Islamic Coalition, alone, are not capable of running the affairs of the country in the best possible way."

IRAQ

Iraqi forces and their Kurdish allies captured Sulaymaniyah yesterday, but Iraq denied it had attacked the town.

Quoting Kurdish sources in Iraqi Kurdistan, IRNA said the Iraqi forces and the KDP had seized control of town near the Iranian border from the rival PUK.

A U.N. official in Arbil, contacted by telephone from Baghdad, said Saturday's fighting in the city of some one million people had left around 100 civilians and combatants dead.

"My estimate is that 100 are dead if you count the peshmergas," or Kurdish guerrillas, said the official. "I don't know how many are wounded. I was not able to visit the hospitals."

The official said more than 100 Iraqi tanks were still deployed in Arbil. "You also have to count 100 military trucks," he said. "The Iraqi flag is flying over the Kurdish Parliament building," he said.

An official with a U.N. relief agency in Arbil said there was a "very tense calm" in the city yesterday.

Iraq announced late Saturday it would withdraw its troops "very soon" from Northern Iraq, and that its offensive had been a "limited" operation carried out at the request of the KDP.

An Iraqi government spokesman said Iraqi forces had "achieved the main goal of their mission" and would "return to their previous positions very soon."

The U.S. placed its forces in the Persian Gulf on "high alert"

WEATHER

<u>Tehran Temperature</u>			
<u>Maximum</u>	34°C		
<u>Minimum</u>	23°C		
<u>Shiny sky with wind</u>			
<u>Temperature extremes till noon today</u>			
<u>High: Ahwaz</u>	47°C		
<u>Low: Qaen</u>	3°C		
<u>Temperature in some major cities of the world on Sept.1, 1996</u>			
<u>Paris</u>	17°C	<u>London</u>	19°C
<u>Jeddah</u>	36°C	<u>Abu Dhabi</u>	38°C
<u>Kuwait</u>	43°C	<u>Madrid</u>	24°C
<u>Karachi</u>	28°C	<u>Rome</u>	25°C

after the offensive by President Saddam Hussein's troops, and expressed skepticism yesterday that Iraq would honor its pledge to withdraw.

"Given the provocations of Iraq, we don't put a lot of credibility in that," said White House spokesman Michael McCurry.

U.S. Defense Department officials said the U.S. was weighing whether to send to the Persian Gulf region an air expeditionary force of about 34 combat aircraft and 1,200 support personnel from U.S. bases.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller yesterday called on Saddam to withdraw his forces immediately.

A statement faxed to IRAN NEWS by the Turkish Embassy here expressed concern over the developments in Northern Iraq.

"Turkey expects that all concerned parties immediately stop fighting," the statement appealed to all Kurdish groups.

"Turkey will never permit a new exodus from Northern Iraq towards the Turkish border to take place," the statement said and warned that Turkey would take all necessary measures to prevent such developments.

In Ankara, Ciller said Turkey was conducting intense diplomacy with the U.S., Iran and Iraq.

British, French and U.S. aircraft patrol a no-fly zone in Northern Iraq above the 36th Parallel in operation Provide Comfort, which was set up after the 1991 Persian Gulf War under a U.N. resolution.

Iraq said yesterday that it intervened in the Kurdish-held North to demonstrate its sovereignty over the region and warned against any foreign intervention.

President Bill Clinton in Washington said the U.S. viewed with great concern the Iraqi incursion into the safe haven set by the allied forces.

In Washington, Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole Saturday said Baghdad's attack on Northern Iraq shows that the U.N.'s move to ease sanctions against Iraq may have come too early.

French troops based in the Persian Gulf are on alert like their U.S. counterparts, French Defense Ministry said yesterday.

No U.N. Security Council meeting are planned, but British, French and U.S. officials held informal contacts throughout the day on Saturday.

MUSLIM

Misuari did not make any statement yesterday and he and his entourage were immediately whisked to the Manila Hotel, witnesses said.

RAFSAJANI

Hassan said that the recent "fruitful" visit to Malaysia by the

President was an important event aimed at expanding Tehran-Kuala Lumpur ties.

The Malaysian diplomat pointed to the rise in quality in Iranian production standards and called for a more active Iranian private sector presence in Malaysia and for joint investment in various spheres.

Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction with Malaysia's stands on the Muslim world and global issues, including its opposition to the bullying policies of the U.S.

He said Iran was ready to make joint investments in the oil, gas, petrochemical, telecommunications and transportation industries.

LEADER

organize similar gatherings for paying homage to their martyrs, and at the same time offer the Iranian Muslim youth an ideological direction, a way of life, and a religion-based path that would appeal to them as a timeless model for their self-fulfillment as religious citizens.

SECRET

from Page 12

demand. The Post said that Larsen was joined in his mediation effort last week by U.S. Mideast coordinator Dennis Ross, who met with Gold and the Norwegian diplomat in Paris from Monday to Wednesday.

Ross subsequently played a key role in getting Netanyahu to agree on a resumption of public negotiations with the Palestinians which are due to begin later this week, Israeli media reported.

Netanyahu agreed to resume the political negotiations after Arafat, responding to growing Palestinian popular unhappiness with the stalemate in the peace process, called for mass protests in the Palestinian territories.

THOUSANDS

ing the first magazine catering to Muslim women, "Sisters." Unlike its American sister publications, this magazine features no provocatively dressed women on the cover, underwear advertisements or frank discussions about sex.

"American magazines are too superficial," sniffed Junejo, of Seattle, Wash. "They talk about irrelevant subjects that are too trivial."

Pointing to his magazine, which displays on its cover a drawing of a woman wearing scarves and holding bouquets of flowers, Junejo indicated the topics in the first issue of Sisters: What should be in a Muslim marriage contract. Facing cancer with faith. Growing garden roses.

"These are issues that give women self-esteem, build their character and make them full-fledged, productive members of this society," said Junejo.

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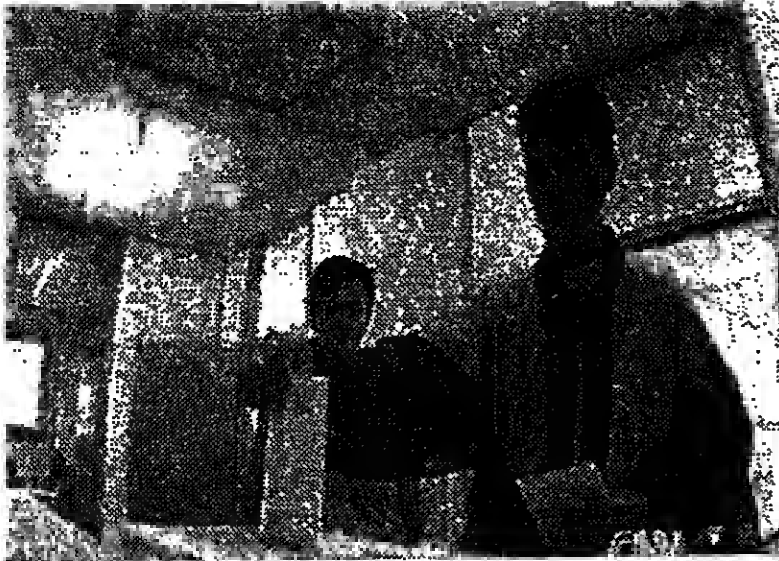
MUSLIMS MARCH ON CONTESTED VILLAGE:

Bosnian Refugee Vote Under Way, Hits Boycott, "Postal" Problems

ZAGREB, CROATIA (AFP) - Early voting by tens of thousands of Bosnian refugees in dozens of countries around the world is under way, but has been hit in two of the main countries by boycott calls and "postal" problems, OSCE officials said yesterday.

Some 640,000 Bosnian refugees in 55 countries have registered to vote in the first post-war elections in Bosnia on September 14. Most will vote by postal ballot but some will vote in Bosnia on the day.

The bulk of those - voting for a new national presidency and entity-level parliaments - are in Croatia, Germany and Serbia, the



Party of Democratic Action (SDA), late Friday lifted a call for a partial boycott of the poll, but party leader and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic maintained uncertainty over whether the SDA would participate in the elections.

"As far as participation in the vote in the country is concerned we will make the (final) decision when we have cleared up some things," Izetbegovic told a rally Saturday.

He said a team of government experts was still examining "the good and bad effects of the elections, and what would happen if we don't or do participate at the polls."

The party for Bosnia-Herzegovina of former Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic maintained its call for a partial boycott in a protest over voter rules.

Mohamed Sacirbey, Bosnia's ambassador to the United Nations, said Friday he had received a U.S. pledge that some forms, registering Serbs in towns that were previously Muslim-majority, would be withdrawn.

According to another report from Mahala in Bosnia-Herzegovina, U.S. tanks and troops moved through a Bosnian village Saturday in a show of force meant to thwart pre-election violence between Muslims trying to rebuild their homes and Serbs who don't want them there.

Amid the flexing of NATO muscle in and around Mahala, about 75 Muslims marched toward the village in Serb territory, site of a recent clash by the two groups. By late afternoon, about 50 had reached a U.S. control point.



GREBAK, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Supporters of Bosnia's ruling Muslim SDA Party cheer and wave flags for the Leader of the Party, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic as he addressed a political rally Aug. 31 at a former military outpost in Grebak, high in the mountains to the south of Sarajevo.

(AFP Photo)

countries to which the majority of Bosnia's refugees fled during the three-and-a-half year conflict.

Early balloting of Bosnian refugees in Croatia started Saturday and was to be completed yesterday, with a high turnout expected, electoral officials said.

Voting passed off generally peacefully, apart from an incident at Dubrovnik where a group of Bosnian Croat refugees from southern Bosnia Saturday smashed up a polling station after being sent polling papers meant for Bosnian Serbs, officials said.

In Serbia however, voter participation after four days of voting stood late Saturday at just 25 percent, according to official estimates.

Zivota de Luka, head of the Serbia mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

Europe, which is supervising the poll, said voting had been dogged by the late arrival of ballot papers in the post and the complexity of voting rules.

Some voters in Serbia were indicating that the logistical problems might be deliberate, aimed at curbing Serb voting.

Most Bosnian voters in Serbia are Serbs, while those in Croatia are Croats.

In the other great center for Bosnia refugees - Germany, the host of most Muslim refugees - turnout has also so far proved very low.

An OSCE spokesman in Bonn said that by Friday they had received barely 4,000 ballot papers from some 128,000 registered postal voters among the 320,000 Bosnian refugees in the country.

The main Muslim party, the

Fame and Fortune Await the 60 Millionth Thai

BANGKOK, THAILAND (AP) - The baby whose birth brings Thailand's population to the 60 million mark will be awarded about 150,000 baht (\$6,000) worth of gold, reported the Bangkok post Saturday.

But late-starting contestants will be at a distinct disadvantage in the contest, announced Friday by the Health Ministry. The blessed event is projected to happen in a month's time.

Deputy Health Minister Sora-At Klinprathum announced that the prize will be awarded to the first child born after 11 p.m. on Nov. 2.

Contestants delivered by caesarean section are not eligible.

Terrorists Leave Homemade Bomb on Port-au-Prince Main Street

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI (AP) - U.N. peacekeepers detonated a homemade bomb on a main street of Haiti's capital Saturday morning.

A resident, Jonathan Begot, watched a man place the device under a van on Jean-Jacques Des-saline Blvd. and alerted police.

U.N. peacekeepers blew it up a couple of hours before the area would have begun bustling with

Saturday morning shoppers.

It was the latest in a series of terrorist grenade and bomb threats in Port-au-Prince.

Haitian leaders have blamed increasing political violence on the disbanded Haitian army, which they say is manipulated by political and business forces opposed to President Rene Preval's plans to open up the economy and privatize state enterprises.

Beatings Led to Bloody Mutiny by Korean-Chinese Seamen

PUSAN, SOUTH KOREA (AFP) - Beatings, humiliation and fears of deportation caused a bloody mutiny last month by six Korean-Chinese seamen aboard a Honduras-registered tuna fishing boat in the south Pacific, police said yesterday.

The mutineers, all ethnic Koreans from China, confessed to killing seven South Koreans with knives, axes and clubs one by one on August 2 after they were ordered to go home. Sa Chan-Soo, a marine police investigator, said.

Over 96 Killed in Guerrilla Assaults in Colombia

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA (AP) - In one of the bloodiest guerrilla offensives in years, at least 96 people were killed in retaliation for government efforts to suppress protests by coca farmers, authorities said Saturday.

Fifty soldiers were killed in an assault on a military base Friday night near the border with Ecuador, radio stations said, citing sources in the Defense Ministry. The army located the bodies only on Saturday because of poor communications. It was the single deadliest clash in years.

RCN radio said 50 soldiers were also abducted in the attack in a remote jungle region 340 miles (550 kms) south of the capital, Bogota.

Rebel casualties were not immediately known.

In past weeks, tens of thousands of peasants have gathered in southern Colombia to protest government plans to destroy coca, the plant used in cocaine processing.

Authorities accuse guerrillas, who say they represent Colombia's poor, of provoking the protests to protect drug trafficking operations. Protesters say growing coca is the only way to make a living.

Gen. Jose Serrano, the national police chief, said the rebel offensive was in renege for fighting between the military and peasants in which at least 12 civilians have died.

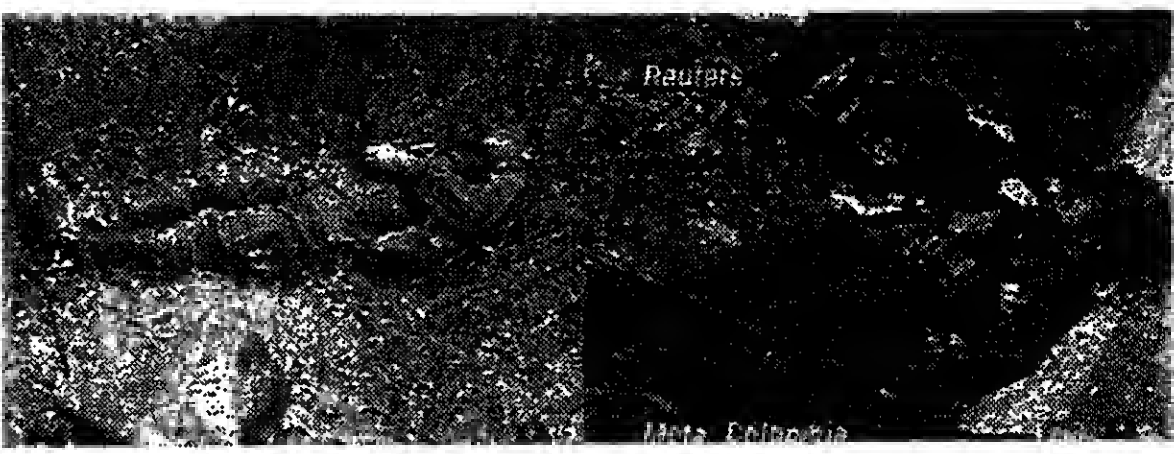
"Those behind these attacks are wrong if they think they can distract the government's attention from (fumigation) operations in the south of the country," President Ernesto Samper said.

Among the victims in attacks on Friday were 29 police officers and soldiers. Rebels killed five officers and a civilian at a police station in south Bogota, a poor area where leftist militants are active.

Police in a nearby station heard explosions and escaped before about 70 rebels arrived at their post. Both police stations were destroyed.

Eighteen police officers and 10 soldiers died in other attacks around Colombia. Eleven guerrillas were killed.

Guerrillas also killed the mayor of Susa, 95 miles (150 kms) north-east of Bogota, at a roadblock, police said. They dynamited highway toll booths and stormed about a dozen small towns.



Chinese Arrest 180 Muslim Scholars in Xinjiang

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN (AFP) - Muslim separatists claimed yesterday that Chinese authorities had arrested 180 Mullahs, Quranic professors and students since mid-July in the far western Chinese province of Xinjiang.

Yousoupbek Moukhliissi, head of the separatist Uygur Movement exiled in Kazakhstan on Xinjiang's western border, told AFP that 50 people had been detained over the weekend in the main city of Kashgar and another 130 elsewhere in the region since July 14.

Moukhliissi, who heads the United National Revolutionary Front (UNRF), said that China's radio Urumqi, based in Xinjiang, had claimed that the people were rounded up to be given a course in Communist re-education. "But it is not true, they were arrested," Moukhliissi said, citing Uygur leaders in Xinjiang.

In Xiojiang, "first many Uygur activists were captured, and now they're arresting Mullahs," Moukhliissi said.

Seven Islamic Activists Killed in Algeria

ALGIERS, ALGERIA (AFP) - Seven Islamic activists were killed in three separate operations by security forces during the past five days, the Algerian press reported yesterday.

The El Watan daily said five were killed late Wednesday in a shootout in the coastal resort of Zeralda, west of Algiers.

Another was shot dead by se-

curity forces Saturday in Tizi-Ouzou, in Kabylie region. El Watan said he had killed a policeman but was surrounded by security forces and shot after fleeing into a school.

The same day, another activist was killed in an ambush, the Liberte daily reported.

None of the incidents has been officially confirmed.

Kashmir Pilgrimage Toll 240, Search for Stranded Hindus Ends

SRINAGAR, INDIA (AFP) - The death toll from a devastated Hindu pilgrimage in the Kashmir Himalayas has reached 240, an official spokesman said here yesterday.

Kashmir government spokesman K.B. Jindial said the toll of 240 was the final figure given by rescuers, who ended a search yesterday for more bodies on the blizzard-hit route to the pilgrimage site in the Amarnath cave.

"The final toll is 240, but there could be one more or one less death..." Jindial said in the state summer capital of Srinagar.

He said 150 of the bodies had been identified and added that five Indian soldiers and 21 Muslim porters from Kashmir were among those who froze to death in the blizzards.

A British national of Indian origin was among the pilgrims who died since August 22 when blizzards and icy rains pounded the route taken by tens of thousands of unprepared Hindu pilgrims to the cave, Jindial said.

The pilgrimage, slated to run from August 16-28, was called off by the government as the scale of the disaster became apparent but 650 pilgrims refused to stop until they had reached the holy site.

Almost 60,000 of an estimated 85,000 devotees who tried to reach the sacred site, 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Srinagar, were stranded in the Kashmir valley during the week-long disaster.

There has been panic across India and abroad as relatives of many of those killed or hospitalized with frostbite are yet to be advised of the pilgrims' fates.

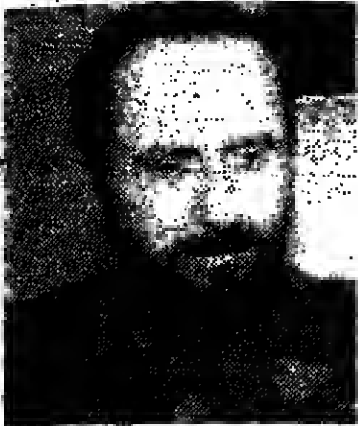
A government-backed rescue operation evacuated thousands of stranded pilgrims to relief camps on the route to the holy site. The scale of the tragedy has put Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda in the middle of a political storm.



HARLOW, UNITED KINGDOM: Artist impression of the seven Iraqis accused hijackers at Harlow Magistrates with their interpreters (standing) Aug. 31. The Iraqis were charged with hijacking a Sudan Airways flight and forcing it to fly to London and remained in custody until Sept. 9 by the court. (AFP Photo)

مكتبة الأمل

Chechens: Huge Task to Enforce Peace, But Independence Won



YANDARBIYEV



Boris Yeltsin

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Chechen rebel leaders warned yesterday of the huge task ahead to implement a breakthrough peace accord ending the 20-month conflict in Chechnya, but insisted they had won independence. Separatist Leader Zelimhan Yandarbiyev, quoted by the Interfax news agency, said the accord signed early Saturday was "an important step toward peace." But, he warned, "There is still an enormous amount of work to be done and a difficult struggle against those forces who want to pursue the war."

His reserved comments contrast with the markedly more enthusiastic reaction of other separatist leaders after the accord was signed by Alexander Lebed for Moscow and rebel Chief of Staff

Aslan Maskhadov. Meanwhile, Kohdz-Akhmed Yarikhanov, who led the separatist delegation in the talks much of the time, said the deal confirmed Chechnya's independence and did not put off the issue for five years, as claimed by Moscow. He said the accord did not contain the word "status," contrary to the text of Lebed's draft proposal. Mention of the word "would have been imputing doubt on the status, which is not the case," he told AFP. Instead it confirmed Chechnya's independence. Yarikhanov added, even though the text said "an accord on bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and Chechen Republic must be signed by December 31, 2001."

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the parliamentary commission on

foreign affairs and a member of Lebed's delegation, admitted Saturday the accord was worded so each side could claim its own version of events.

Chechen rebel Vice-President Said-Khassan Abumuslimov immediately said then that "for us there is no change. Chechnya remains independent."

Lukin said, however: "We also consider that their status has been decided, but under our constitution."

Yandarbiyev, who became separatist leader in April on the death of Dzhokhar Dudayev, warned against "provocations," which he said supporters of a military solution in Chechnya had already begun, to try to upset the accord.

Speaking to Interfax from an unspecified location in southern Chechnya, he cited as an example the arrest earlier this week of two Chechen journalists in neighboring Dagestan, which he said was by Russian special forces.

The future of Chechnya's Moscow-installed government was also in doubt.

Yarikhanov said the text of the accord differed from Lebed's draft in making no mention of the government, most of which fled to Moscow when the peace talks began.

According to Interfax, the government, headed by Doku

Zavgayev, might resign yesterday, obliging Moscow and the separatists to begin delicate talks on how to form a new administration.

Zavgayev himself however did not appear ready to resign, telling Moscow Echo radio yesterday that he knew nothing about any such move and did not believe it.

Lebed, Yeltsin's representative in Chechnya, has said he favors a coalition government for the North Caucasus Republic.

The accord is to be studied by the Russian government Monday at a meeting of key ministries presided by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Meanwhile, President Boris Yeltsin cast doubt Saturday on the validity of a peace accord signed by his Security chief Alexander Lebed and Chechen rebel leaders, saying the document demanded "additional evaluation and assessment."

The skeptical statement from Yeltsin came just hours after Lebed and the top separatist commander, Aslan Maskhadov, declared an end to the 20-month war in Chechnya that has killed more than 30,000 people and ravaged the tiny southern republic.

Despite new doubts, the sides proceeded with the withdrawal from Grozny, part of an earlier military truce, leaving the capital in the hands of joint Russian-Chechen patrols.

Roman Catholic Church Attacked in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (AFP) - At least two people were killed in clashes outside a Roman Catholic church where Sri Lanka's main opposition was staging a mass to mark its golden jubilee, the party said yesterday.

The United National Party (UNP) said one of its supporters was shot dead by activists of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government during the skirmishes at the northwestern town of Negombo on Saturday.

The UNP said in a statement that its supporters acted in self-defense and shot dead a government supporter and raised to two the number of people killed.

There was no official word on the incident.

Meanwhile, Tamil Tiger guerrillas ambushed an army patrol in eastern Sri Lanka, killing seven soldiers and wounding another, the Defense Ministry here said yesterday.

Gunmen from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked the soldiers at Ridipokuna in the Polonnaruwa district while they were on their way to provide protection to local farmers Saturday.

According to another report Sri Lanka asked for foreign help to fight terrorism as British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind left here yesterday after condemning the island's separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

42 Feared Drowned in Southern India

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - At least 42 people were feared drowned when their boat sank on Saturday in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, the United News of India reported yesterday.

The boat carrying some 50 passengers went down in the Nagavalli River in the district of Vijayanagaram.

The news agency, quoting official sources, said rescuers had recovered two bodies. The boat capsized overnight following heavy rains.

Most of the passengers were tribes people from the remote district of coastal Andhra Pradesh, the news agency added.

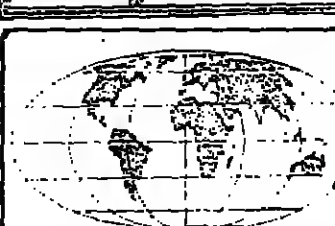
Egypt Rejects British Explanations of London Conference

CAIRO, EGYPT (AFP) - Egypt yesterday accused Britain of backing terrorism after officials in London said they would allow a conference of Islamic activists to go ahead as planned next week.

"We cannot accept statements by London that British law allows the convening of such meetings out of respect for democracy, human rights and freedom of expression," Interior Minister Hassan al-Alfi said.

"To authorize such a meeting shows a will to provide assistance and facilities to these criminals (Islamic activists) who are plotting against the countries," Alfi told the

The World at a Glance



BELLACHY, N. IRELAND - Protestant marchers and Catholic protesters confronted each other in towns across Northern Ireland late Saturday but avoided serious violence.

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. - Hurricane Edouard churned northward yesterday off the U.S. eastern seaboard, sending pounding waves along the coast and threatening beachgoers during the three-day, summer-end labor day weekend.

ANKARA, TURKEY - Two ministers of the Islamic-led government left for Libya on Saturday in a bid to convince Tripoli to pay up the \$ 320 million owed to Turkish contractors.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA - As the death toll in a mudslide at a Malaysian aborigine village rose to 23 yesterday, a geomancer called for a halt to hilltop tree-clearing, believing the landslide to be the work of a disturbed "dragon."

KHARTOUM, SUDAN - Residents of the Sudanese capital rushed yesterday to bakeries looking for bread but many returned empty-handed amid reports of huge shortages.

CANNES, FRANCE - A circus trainer who was mauled by an escaped tiger died during the night in a hospital in Nice, police said yesterday.

CALCUTTA, INDIA - Doctors treating Mother Teresa said here yesterday they would stem the flow of visitors to the ailing Nobel laureate, saying she did not sleep well during the night.

MONTREAL, CANADA - At least five people died in a blaze at a senior citizens' home, police said.

(DISPATCHES)

Second Black Box Found at Russian Airplane Crash Site

LONGYEARBYEN, NORWAY (DISPATCHES) - A second black box was found yesterday on the remote mountain where a Russian chartered airliner crashed in Norway's far north, killing all 141 people on board, authorities said.

It was discovered in a restricted area where the Vnukovo Airlines flight crashed Thursday 10 kilometers (six miles) from Longyearbyen on Spitsbergen Island.

Two Russian experts told Norwegian authorities they had found

the box after wandering late Saturday into the area, which had been sealed off by Norwegian authorities.

They were held by police and brought before Ann-Kristin Olsen, the prefect of Svalbard, the district which includes Spitsbergen, for what she said were "interviews" in connection with an alleged "abuse of trust."

They were released from questioning overnight.

Missing Belgian Girls Found in Cologne

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (AFP) - Two teenage girls who went missing earlier this week amid continuing revelations of a paedophile ring operating in Belgium were found in Cologne, Western Germany, Belgian radio reported yesterday.

RTBF reported that the mother of one of the two girls, who were discovered safe and sound late Saturday, claimed the girls had been kidnapped.

But the prosecutor's office, which has so far declined to give details about the girls' disappearance or their reappearance in Germany some 100 kilometers (60 miles) away, has not confirmed her statement.

Rachel Legeard, 18, and Severine Poty, 19, from the eastern Belgium town of Nandrin, went missing after they failed to return home last Thursday from a shopping trip to Liege.

Mexican President Vows to Crush Rebels But Respect Civil Rights

MEXICO CITY (AP) - President Ernesto Zedillo has vowed to crush a rebel insurgency that has created a security crisis for his government, raising fears among political activists Saturday of a crackdown on civil dissent.

Troops and police fanned out across the country as Zedillo prepared to deliver a state-of-the-nation address yesterday, two days after he said he would suppress the rebels.

Many say they fear that opposition groups could be caught up in the crackdown on a group the president called "criminal, violent and cowardly."

Troops and police set up checkpoints on highways and patrolled mountain roads to prevent new attacks by the Popular Revolutionary Army, whose attacks on troops, police, and other targets last week killed 14 people.

Zedillo warned that the rebel group, known by its Spanish initials EPR, hopes to provoke officials into "the error of violating the rights of others" and creating "social sympathy for their cause."



ARROYO XUCHITL, OAXACA, MEXICO: Mexican Judicial Police arrive in Arroyo Xuchitl in the mountains of the southern state of Oaxaca, during a patrol Aug. 30, to question residents about the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR). The Mexican government has deployed army troops to Oaxaca and Guerrero after EPR rebels attacked police and army posts in both states, reportedly leaving 14 people dead. (AFP Photo)

ghan Official Expresses Gratitude for in Liberal Aid

New ssador

Edwards Sparks Wigan Into Final

LONDON (AFP) - Captain Shaun Edwards scored four tries as Wigan edged out Bradford Bulls 42-36 in a dramatic first semi-final of the Super League Premiership on Saturday night.

Wigan needed to be at their best to win a 15-try classic and book their place in next weekend's final, their fifth final appearance in a row in the competition.

British test scrum-half Edwards, who signed a new extended contract in midweek with deposed champions Wigan, celebrated with a man-of-the-match display.

IRAN NEWS

VOL. II, No. 540 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Monday September 2, 1996, Shahrivar 12, 1375, Rabi II 17, 1417

SPORTS

Five-Set Win for Chang

NEW YORK (AFP) - Michael Chang's persistence and experience paid off on Saturday as he emerged victorious from a rough five-set match with unseeded Vince Spadea in the third round of the U.S. Open Tennis Championships.

"I was definitely in a hole out there," said Chang, who started to climb out of it when he broke Spadea to love when Spadea served for the match at 5-4 in the fourth.

"I was really tired in that fifth set," Chang said. I just tried to hang tough.

Chang, ranked third in the world and seeded second here, won 6-4, 5-7, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 in three hours and 49 minutes, taking his win-loss record in five-setters to 18-8. Spadea, ranked 69th in the world, fell to 0-2.

"To be honest, I don't really know how I was able to win today's match," Chang said, adding that it might have to do with his ability to keep trying, even when defeat seems inevitable.

"In all the matches that I've played, if I'm down a match point or the other guy's serving for the match, I don't count myself out," he said.

Chang's victory in the 10th game of the fourth launched a string of 11 unanswered points. It was the first of five games in a row that took him to a 2-0 lead in the fifth before he dropped his own serve to let the gap shrink to 2-1.

He went up a break for good in the sixth, when he took a 4-2 lead.

"He raised his level and I didn't get too many serves in, didn't

attack," Spadea said. "I didn't hit my shots the way I had been to get to that point."

Spadea, who beat seventh-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov to reach the fourth round here last year, saved one match point in the ninth game with a backhand volley winner before Chang put away a backhand of his own.

Meanwhile another battle was raging out on court 16 of the National Tennis Center, where Spaniard Javier Sanchez saved four match points in the fifth-set tiebreaker to beat Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6).

Stoltenberg saved two match points in the 12th game of the last set to force the decider, which he led 6-2 before Sanchez roared back with the last six points of the match.

Sanchez set up a fourth-round meeting with France's Arnaud Boetsch, who beat American Jeff Tarango 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6). Swedish 13th seed Thomas Enqvist beat Ecuadorian Pablo Campana 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Sixth-seeded American Andre Agassi used a third-set tiebreaker to post a straight-set victory over unseeded Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (9/7).

Agassi was relieved to get it done in three after trailing 4-1.

"I didn't feel it was necessarily a great breaker that I played, but I managed to win it," he said. "It's nice not to be out there playing a fourth set when you were in control of the match the whole time."

In the fourth round Agassi will

play David Wheaton, who beat fellow American Alex O'Brien 1-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2.

Chang will face Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek, who downed Argentina's Hernan Gumy 7-5, 6-1, 6-2.



MICHAEL CHANG

NEW YORK (AFP) - Russian 15-year-old Anna Kournikova, playing the third Grand Slam match of her life, upset 14th seeded Austrian Barbara Paulus on Saturday to set up a meeting with world number one Steffi Graf.

Parnevik Ahead in PGA

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN (AFP) - Sweden's Jesper Parnevik fired an eight-under par 63 here Saturday to grab a one-stroke lead entering the final round of the \$1.2 million PGA Greater Milwaukee Open.

Parnevik, seeking his first PGA Tour triumph, stands at 19-under-par 194 entering the final round, one better than second-round leader Nolan Henke.

After starting with a par and a bogey, Parnevik birdied six of the next seven holes and sank three more back-nine birdies, including 12-footers on the 15th and 17th holes.

"I can't remember when I've putted this well," Parnevik said.

"I was disappointed when a 12-footer didn't go in. My game feels very good. I've been fading my driver but today whenever I set up for a fade it went straight. Whenever everyone's making birdies you never want to be even par."

Three-time U.S. amateur champion Tiger Woods, who made the cut in his first tournament as a professional, fired a 73 and was 15 strokes back.

Henke, who had a 67, seeks his first title since 1993. Henke's four Saturday birdies included a 45-footer on the (par-3 215-yard) seventh hole and a 12-footer on the 12th hole.

"I didn't hit it very well," said Henke. "Jesper blew right me, once he did. I knew I had to make birdies just to keep up. I made some really good pars. I basically picked up where I left off yesterday afternoon. Right now, I can't put my finger on what's wrong."

Zanardi Grabs Indycar Pole

VANCOUVER, CANADA (AFP) - Italy's Alex Zanardi won the pole here Saturday for Sunday's Indycar race here at Pacific Place, turning a top lap at 113.576 mph in his Honda-powered Reynard.

The Indycar rookie from Formula One is third in the series points standings with two races remaining in the season. His teammate, American Jimmy Vasser, leads the series.

Michael Andretti, a four-time winner this year who stands fourth overall, joined Zanardi in the front row. Americans Bobby Rahal and Bryan Herta were in row two with Vasser and Canada's Paul Tracy in row three.

Sports Highlights



TEHRAN: Giorgio Galimberti of Italy winning SAT 96 men's single final at Enghelab Sports Complex September 1.

(Photo by Hatami)

India Rout Zimbabwe in Singer Cup

COLOMBO (AFP) - India brushed aside lowly Zimbabwe by seven wickets on Sunday to stay in the race for a place in the final of the four-nation Singer Cup here.

Stung by an embarrassing nine-wicket defeat by world champions Sri Lanka in their first match, the Indians raised their game to record a badly-needed win in the preliminary league.

India shot out Zimbabwe for a modest 226 after captain Sachin Tendulkar won the toss and decided to field on a damp wicket at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

Tendulkar and Ajay Jadeja then hammered 91 for the first wicket by the 15th over to lead India's easy victory with 37 balls to spare.

Daddy Caddy Helps Tschetter Shoot to Lead

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS (AFP) - Kris Tschetter, using her daddy as a first-time caddy, fired a nine-under-par 63 Saturday to grab a one-stroke lead after the first round of the \$575,000 LPGA Rail Classic here.

Tschetter, using a new putter, carded nine birdies and an eagle to offset two bogeys and come within one stroke of the course record set in 1991 by Britain's Laura Davies.

Tschetter is a stroke ahead of Denise Killeen as she looks for her first win since 1992.

"I changed my putter yesterday," she said. "I've really struggled with my putting this year. I'm still a little unsure over the short ones. My dad is caddy for me, so he thinks he's the best caddy in the world."

She birdied the 11th through 14th holes and eagled the fourth and birdied the final three holes of the front side.

Russia Beats Slovakia in American Division of World Cup

MONTREAL (AFP) - Russia, led by National Hockey League players, performed only as well necessary Saturday in defeating Slovakia 7-4 in the World Cup of Hockey.

Alexander Mogilny of the Vancouver Canucks had two goals and three assists while Sergei Federov of the Detroit red wings scored twice and assisted twice as the Russians evened their record at 1-1 following a 5-3 loss to Canada in Vancouver on Thursday.

It was the first game of the tournament for Slovakia which is not expected to make round two.

The second round will involve the top three teams from the North American Division, which is made up of Canada and the United States along with Russia and Slovakia, and the top three teams from the European Division.



LA CORUNA, SPAIN: Deportivo De La Coruna's Brazilian player Donato (C) fights for the ball with Real Madrid's Raul (L) and Milla (R) during their Spanish League match Aug. 31 in La Coruna. The match ended 1-1.

(AFP Photo)

کتابخانه ملی

Indycar Pole
IndyCar Series driver Al Unser Jr. won the pole position for the 1996 Indianapolis 500 race, with a time of 1:29.140. Unser Jr. is the son of the late Al Unser Sr., who won the race in 1980 and 1984. Unser Jr. is currently driving for the Team Penske.

Highlights



Highlights
A collection of short news items and updates from various regions, including sports, local events, and international news snippets.

nhabwe in Singer Cup

nhabwe in Singer Cup
A report on the performance of nhabwe in the Singer Cup, detailing the competition and the results of the various stages of the event.

Indy helps school
A story about how the IndyCar Series is supporting local education, specifically through a partnership with a school to provide resources and funding.

Beats Slovakia in Division of World Cup

Beats Slovakia in Division of World Cup
A sports report detailing a victory over Slovakia in a World Cup division, highlighting the key players and the significance of the win.

Leaders Warned Poverty, Vulnerability on the Increase in Pacific

MAJURO (AFP) - There is mounting evidence "poverty, inequality and economic vulnerability" are increasing in Pacific islands, a major economic review released here Sunday says.
The study, written by the South Pacific forum secretariat for this week's 16-nation summit here, says that growth is low and that half of the Pacific member countries "are facing some form of economic crisis".
"The combination of low economic growth and high population growth poses a serious threat to living standards in many Pacific island countries," the report says.
"There is mounting evidence of poverty, inequality and economic vulnerability in Pacific island communities, related to increasing urbanization," the report says.
In an unusual statement for an economic report it adds that AIDS and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which leads to the disease, pose "a growing, but poorly understood, threat."

Saudi Arabia, Yemen Sign Economic Agreement

SAN'A, YEMEN (AP) - Saudi Arabia and Yemen have signed an economic cooperation accord, signalling a thaw in relations that had soured over Yemen's pro-Iraq tilt during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf crisis.
The agreement was signed at the presidential palace in San'a late Thursday, the second day of a visit to Yemen by Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan, official Yemeni sources said.
Sultan was accompanied by interior minister, Prince Nayef, foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, and other officials.
It was the first high-ranking Saudi delegation to visit Yemen since the strain six years ago.
The economic agreement encourages Saudi investment in Yemen and paves the way for commercial and technical cooperation between the two largest countries in the Arabian Peninsula, said the sources, who refused to be identified by name.
They did not give details of the economic accord, and there was no word of agreement on other issues discussed during Sultan's visit, which ends later Friday.
Sultan had talks with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and parliament speaker, Abdullah al-Ahmar, on a decades-long border dispute and security issues.

Japan's Budget Requests at Record 81 Trillion Yen

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's national budget requests for the year starting April, 1997 have shown an 8.4 percent annual rise to a record 81.44 trillion yen (\$754 billion), the finance ministry said Saturday.
Requests from government ministries and agencies for core general operating expenditures, including defense and public works, totaled 44.62 trillion yen, up 3.4 percent from the initial budget for the current financial year to March, 1997.
The 3.4 percent increase is the ceiling agreed by the cabinet of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in July, and is lower than the real growth of 4.2 percent in the year to March, 1997.
The tough ceiling was set to ease growing pressure on national finance and reform the country's outdated post-war economic structure.
The finance ministry will screen and cut requests to cover an expected gap between spending requests and government revenue.
Requests for national investment and loan programs, which are not included in general operating expenditures, grew 11 percent to 54.66 trillion yen.
The programs, called "the second national budget," funnel funds at postal savings, pension and other public schemes to government-affiliated institutions such as housing loan corp.
Budget requests climbed 11.6 percent to 18.27 trillion yen for interest payments and redemption of government bonds and surged 26.8 percent to 17.25 trillion yen for tax grants.
Requests for official development assistance came to 1.17 trillion yen, up 2.6 percent. Defense budget requests rose 2.9 percent to 4.98 trillion yen.
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Middle East Bank to Open in November 1997

CAIRO (AFP) - The Middle East and North Africa Development Bank will open in November 1997, a high-level Egyptian official said Saturday after the agreement creating the bank was concluded.
The United States and Russia formulated the agreement creating the bank, and other founders must sign it by October 1997, Rauf Saad, deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, told journalists.
The agreement allows other countries to join the bank, whose creation was decided in October 1995 in Amman during the second economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa.
The United States, the largest shareholder, will contribute 21 percent of the capital, followed by Japan, which will put up 9.5 percent with Russia providing six percent. The bank's capital will be \$5 billion.
Most European countries and the Persian Gulf monarchies have said they will not contribute capital to the bank.
"Four peace process partners will benefit from the bank - Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian authority," Saad said, adding that Lebanon and Syria will also reap the advantages "when they make peace agreements with Israel."

Russian, Iraqi Officials Discuss Business Opportunities

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz met Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk here Saturday to discuss possible Russian supplies of food and medicine to Iraq, Iraqi officials said.
The Russian diplomat, who was last here in June, arrived in Baghdad Friday at the head of a team of representatives from the Russian ministries of oil and energy and business executives.
The Russian delegation is to explore business opportunities now that the United Nations is poised to permit Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil in exchange for food and medicine.
The official news agency INA quoted Aziz as telling Posuvalyuk that "Iraq wants to see Russian companies help supply Baghdad with humanitarian products."

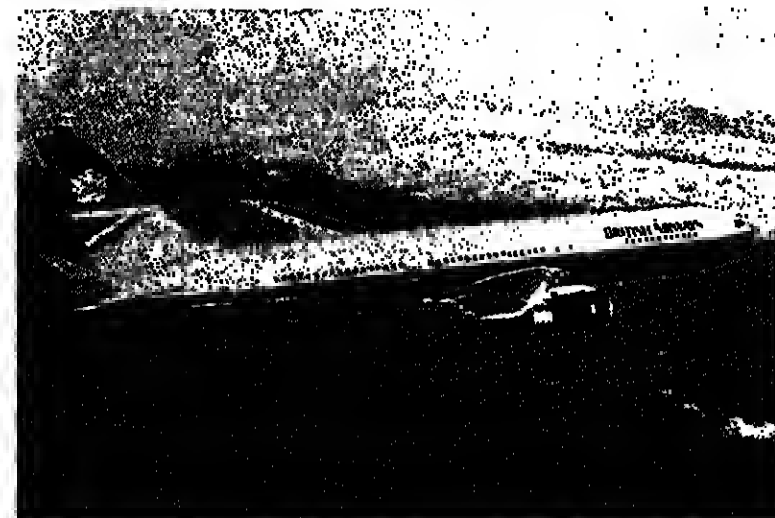


TAREQ AZIZ
companies help supply Baghdad with humanitarian products

within the framework of the Baghdad-U.N. oil-for-food agreement" worked out in May.
The agreement, the first lightening of the six-year oil embargo imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, is to be strictly supervised by the United Nations.
The two men also discussed relations between Iraq and the U.N. special commission on removing Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and Aziz said that his country would fulfill its U.N. commitments.
The meeting between Aziz and Posuvalyuk came as Iraqi troops launched an offensive with Kurdish fighters to seize control of the town of Arbil in northern Iraq from a rival Kurdish group.

British Airways Profit Up to £150m in First Quarter

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - British Airways announced pre-tax profits of £150 million for the three months to the end of June - up 11.1 percent on the £135 million achieved in the same period a year ago, according to a press release by British Airways.



Sir Colin Marshall, the Chairman, said: "The outlook for the airline industry in general and for British Airways remains encouraging. This will be another record year for the industry. With our current and proposed alliance partnership and our plans to deliver step change improvements in business efficiency, we are well placed to providing continuing profitable growth for our shareholders and employees."
Profit after tax in the first quarter was £115 million, equivalent to earnings of 11.9 pence a share, up 13.3 percent on the 10.5 pence a year ago.
Group turnover for the three months increased by 10.5 percent, to £2,103 million. Growth in operating profit, up by only £1 million to £195 million, was held back by £23 million increase in fuel costs. Without this, operating profit would have combined 12 percent, reflecting strong growth in passenger revenue.
A total of 8.35 million passengers were carried, up fractionally on a year ago, but with the average passenger flying further, scheduled revenue passenger kilometers on mainline services rose 3.7 percent. Cargo carrying rose by 9.4 percent, in terms of cargo ton kilometers.
Net borrowing fell £209 million, to £3,496 million, giving a net debt to total capital ratio of 56.4 percent, a three point improvement since March 31.
Net interest costs were down £12 million, a 19 percent fall, mainly as a result of lower interest rates.
Incremental contributions from U.S. Air, Quantas, Deutsche BA, TAT and the network of franchise operators doubled to almost £50 million, reflecting improved traffic feed and reduced losses from TAT in particular.
British Airways confirmed today its decision to exercise its option to purchase the remaining 50.1 percent of the share capital of its French partner TAT European Airlines.
British Airways acquired 49.9 percent of TAT in January 1993 with an agreement to purchase the

balance by April 1, 1997.
Bob Ayling, British Airways' Chief Executive, said: "French law now allows us to own 100 percent of TAT. Accordingly we are acquiring the remaining shares in the airline as originally agreed.
"We intend now to take further steps to improve TAT's profitability and prepare the airline for the changes that are taking place in the French aviation market."
"We wish to express gratitude to Michel and Rodolphe Marchais for their contribution since British Airways first invested in TAT three years ago."
Mare Rochet, previously Chairman of AOM and Aero-Maritime, is to be appointed Chairman of TAT.
The move comes months ahead of the introduction of the final package of liberalization of the European skies, initiated nearly three years ago, completely opening domestic markets to competition from other European airlines.

MPs Call for More Kuwaitis in Oil Sector

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - MPs criticized the government-run oil sector on Saturday for not employing enough Kuwaitis, in a parliamentary debate on the finances of the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).
"Why do we want foreign workers? Kuwaitis are ready to work in any job, especially in the oil sector," said MP Khalaf Demether Al-Enezi, during the debate in the national assembly, or parliament.
"Today we have a problem of unemployment," said Abdullah al-Hajiri, another tribal MP, adding that the KPC's aim to have Kuwaitis make up 70 percent of its workforce by 2000 was "not good enough."
"We have to nationalize that sector (with Kuwaiti workers) and make it 100 percent Kuwaiti," he argued.
MPs also urged KPC to rid itself of loss-making subsidiaries, despite the fact that KPC reported record consolidated profits in fiscal 1994-1995 of 811 million dinars (\$2.7 billion).
The MPs approved KPC's 1994-1995 financial statement, the latest year for which accounts

have been released, and also approved the budget for the financial year 1996-1997, which began on July 1.
Final accounts for 1995-1996, which ended on June 30, have yet to be released.
Record profits in 1994-1995 were the result of total revenues of 4.235 billion dinars (\$14.2 billion), while total expenses were 3.424 billion dinars (\$11.5 billion).
The budget for the financial year 1996-1997 forecasts profits of 571 million dinars (\$1.9 billion), almost 30 percent higher than the forecast for 1995-1996, but less than actual profits in 1994-1995.
This is based on a projected four percent growth in revenues during 1996-1997 to 3,860 billion dinars (\$12.9 billion), while expenses are expected to increase by less than one percent in the year to 3,289 billion dinars (\$11 billion).
KPC is the holding company for all Kuwait's oil activities, which mainly involve the production, refining and distribution related to Kuwait's output of two million barrels of oil a day.

Economic Digest

TOKYO - Japan's jobless rate edged lower in July to 3.4 percent from 3.5 percent in June, while the overall number of jobless fell to 2.21 million people, the lowest level so far in 1996.
While the employment outlook continues to look somewhat bleak, there are some bright signs to the latest data, including a trend toward fewer people who left the workplace involuntarily the management and coordination agency said Friday.
Separately, the labor ministry reported that the ratio of job offers to job seekers, an indicator of demand for labor, nudged slightly higher to 11.72 in July compared with 11.71 in June. The ratio shows that there were only 72 jobs being offered for every 100 workers seeking employment in July.
An increase in the workforce in July to 65.89 million workers - up 471,000 from year-earlier levels and marking the second straight year-on-year rise - reflects a mild upturn in the economy, an agency official said.
SYDNEY - Bridgestone Australia Ltd. wants to form a joint venture with Japanese automotive components manufacturer Toyota Gosei Co. Ltd.
NEW DELHI - The department of telecommunications has decided to maintain a 49 percent cap on foreign equity in Indian telecom companies, a newspaper reported Friday.
The decision is a reversal of a department ruling that would have allowed foreign investors a greater ownership share in phone services and other telecommunications related industries, the English-language daily Business Standard reported.
The decision bars the use of foreign funds collected through holding companies.
"Effective Indian equity in an operating company becomes less than 51 percent if the Indian promoter raises money to finance this 51 percent through joint ventures with foreign companies," a department of telecommunications statement said.
BEIJING - Beijing has tightened its control over China's two securities exchanges by placing the markets' regulatory agency under control of the cabinet, officials and reports said Friday.
The stock exchange management law is intended to clear up murky areas of market management. It clearly delineates responsibilities of supervision, stock registration, settlement and punishment, the state-run China Securities News reported.
Under the law, the state council's securities policy committee will oversee the China securities regulatory commission. The commission in turn supervises the country's young and often unruly secondary stock, futures and bond markets in Shanghai and the southeastern city of Shenzhen.
Zhang Yundong, deputy chief of the Shenzhen Securities Exchange Commission, said the law replaces and revises an earlier temporary measure.
Although the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges were set up at the end of 1990, China still lacks a comprehensive set of laws to govern them.
Domestic investors continue to build extensive positions in the B-share markets, which are supposed to be for foreigners.

Those Who Seek A Good Tile, Refer to Saveh Tile Co.

Introduction:

Saveh Tile Co. (STC), affiliated to the Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation, was established and registered in 1989 and commenced operation with 12 billion rials starting capital in that year. STC received agreement in principle for production of 4 million sq. meters of wall tile.

Iran China Factories Ltd., Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation and Iran National Investment Company are shareholders of Saveh Tile Co. whose factory is located in a 12-hectares area at Saveh Industrial Town and employs 380 personnel.

STC's technology and machinery has been imported from Italy and the machinery was wholly erected and commissioned by Iranian engineers and specialists and all its raw material for the factory is supplied from domestic sources.

STC's products hit market in 1995 and was given a wide reception. Presently the Company's tiles are being exported to Kuwait, Dubai, Russia, Turkmenistan, Gyrgezstan and Bahrain.

Saveh Tile Co. which produces wall tiles in different sizes, colors and patterns, was inaugurated by Majlis Speaker Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nouri and Minister of Industries Nematzadeh on October 24, 1995.

Describing the method of commissioning, STC's present status and future plans to IRAN NEWS engineer Mahmoud Belgeiszadeh, the energetic managing director of

Turning to the method of commissioning of Saveh Tile Co., Belgeiszadeh added: "The factory was established with a nominal capacity of 4 million sq.

Saveh Tile Co. said: "Thanks to the support of government authorities and the dedication and efforts of the specialists and employees of Saveh Tile Co. (STC), the factory was launched in an area of 4 million sq. meters for production of wall tiles. The factory is equipped with two channels of fast double firing roller kilns and its extensive line of production has the capacity for third firing design. The company is supplying its tiles according to the latest technology and in keeping with international standards to domestic and foreign markets."

rapid cooking plants in the Middle East. Erection of the machinery started in March 1994 and was completed in September of the same year and a total of 35 billion rials plus 30 million German marks was invested for the factory."

Belgeiszadeh said the technology and the machinery of the Saveh Tile Co. has been imported from Italy and the machinery were wholly erected and commissioned by Iranian engineers and experts.

STC was inaugurated in November 1995 in the presence of Majlis Speaker, Minister of Industries, head of Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation and Friday prayer leader of Saveh.

"In order to supply the needs of other factories which are using tunnel kilns or traditional kilns, besides manufacturing wall tiles, Saveh Tile Company has commissioned a refractory brick plant with 3,000 tons per annum capacity to reduce import of refractory bricks and lessen the foreign exchange spending of such factories. The products of this new plant is used by Iran Tile Company, Hafez tile factory and other related factories," Belgeiszadeh added.

Asked about the technology of the factory, Belgeiszadeh said: "Saveh Tile Company's equipment and machinery have been purchased from the Italian SACMI Company which has 120 years experience in manufacture of tiles and our technology has been devised by the experts of that company."

He said the raw material of Saveh Tile Co. is supplied by domestic mines which contributes to the added value of the tiles.

Belgeiszadeh who is one of the experienced executives in the country, added: "We are employing the highest production capacity compared to other companies which are using advanced technology and all the stages of production

in the packaging section are fully automatic. As a result, our planning and control methods corresponds with the modern technology. We have made extensive research and done much work

urements.

Sale and export:

Belgeiszadeh says the main objective of Saveh Tile Co. is to export its products and believes that without vigorous presence

and amendments in the designs in order to adapt them to the customer's taste and choice. After that we examine and compare the design in a Tile Design Committee which is composed of repre-



Mahmoud Belgeiszadeh

in that connection. One of the most important measures taken by STC was mechanization of the planning and control of production line as well as the company's inventory. We have made extensive research about product formulation and have installed the most modern equipment and instruments in our laboratory. In the meantime we are very keen in the protection of the living environment, research on quality control, and regu-

in international markets and proper presentation of a company products, no export can be made. For this reason, he says, Saveh Tile Co. has launched an extensive campaign to penetrate international markets and to examine and discover different market opportunities but the result of such studies have not yet been revealed in the company's performance.

"For example in the design section we collect and

sentatives of all related departments. Such measures have been widely applauded and accepted by the customers of Saveh Tile Co. Nevertheless, we have not sufficed with this attempt and encouraged by our good customers we have added to our efforts for enhancement of the quality, beauty, attractiveness and elegance of our tiles and have so far been successful in our goals," says hopeful Belgeiszadeh.

Belgeiszadeh says training of the company personnel and updating their information and technology is a basic program of Saveh Tile Company.

The energetic chief executive of Saveh Tile Company believes that the modern technology in the world seeks well informed and experienced people and an eagerness for learning and research.

"For this very reason all our technicians who are working on the production line have secondary school diploma and our supervisors, foremen and management have higher education and proficiency and this has created an appropriate atmosphere for us to give them further training and refresher courses," says Belgeiszadeh and adds:

"Therefore we have devised

See Page 8



Mr. Kloomars Tahooni Director of Public Relations (Center)

starting from raw material section, production lines, sorting section and ending

lar and continued training of factory's personnel with an eye to qualification meas-

examine Iranian and foreign patterns and designs and make necessary changes

SAVEH TILE CO.

Saveh Tile a Combination of Art and Technology,

a sustained training system for the company and have drawn up necessary relative directives which calls for organization of seminars and training courses in technical and production fields within and outside the company."

Saveh Tile Company has prepared its own training manuals and brochures and has so far given 14,000 man hour theoretical and practical training to its employees within the company premises or at recognized institutes outside the company, the STC executive noted.

In the meantime we have taken big steps with regard to research and expansion of the company and creation of new systems. Of the important steps taken in that direction is preparation of a well meditated organization chart and job descriptions for each job, mechanization of the system of sales, storage, inventory, accounting, planning and control, maintenance and company payroll, he pointed out.

According to Belgeiszadeh, quality control has a most significant role in the production line of a factory and in order to obtain ISO 9000 license and create a comprehensive management system, Saveh Tile Company has taken the following measures:

Preparation of justifications for work procedures, preparation of quality control execution forms, absorption of needed manpower in the company's well equipped laboratory and training of the personnel, testing domestic raw materials used to fabricate enamel, testing different soils with different properties to achieve the best formula and installation and commissioning of the best quality control equipment and tools.

"We believe that quality is the key that can open foreign market to our products and all tile experts and specialists who have tasted our tiles have unanimously lauded the high quality of the tiles," Belgeiszadeh remarked adding: "Concerning acquirement of ISO 9000 certificate, we have negotiated with a well known consulting engineering firm and a team composed of 11 persons including 5 engineers, and 6 technicians are taking the preliminary steps for implementation of ISO 9000 standards in Saveh Tile Company. We are giving

continued classroom technical and management training to our employees and are testing our products daily in the laboratory to see that they match the latest standards in Iran and in the

world."

Turning to his company manpower, Belgeiszadeh says: "The quality and method of performance of manpower contributes to a company's success or failure. We have tried to employ the best manpower for our company and by training and evaluating their performance, have retained the

best. We are encouraging and rewarding those who are doing well. Offering a training course to an employee is considered a reward for their good performance. This has created a healthy competition among our engineers and technicians and has motivated them to improve their performance and to excel.

Meanwhile many of the decisions in the company are coordinated with different working committees to allow our employees to participate in company decisions and feel at home. We are trying to encourage

and promulgate a spirit of cooperation and team work among the employees. Another steps towards enhancement of the morale and improvement of the employees' physics is providing wel-

fare and recreational services to our employees. We have different cooperative

Belgeiszadeh:
Quality control plays a most significant role in a factory production line and Saveh Tile Co. is adapting its products to the ISO 9000 standards to receive that recognized international rating.

Every positive step for promotion of sports begins with early morning physical exercise.

Saveh Tile Company
has been established with a nominal capacity of 4 million sq. meters per annum of wall tiles and is considered the most advanced and largest rapid cooking plant in the Middle East.

Marketing:
Elaborating on Saveh Tile Company's activities in the field of marketing and export, Belgeiszadeh says:

"Since Saveh Tile Company has been established with an objective to export and nearly 70 percent of its products are now exportable, we have made extensive studies and taken big steps to improve our mar-

keting. As a result of the campaign launched by our experts in our marketing section, we are exporting tiles to Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Central Asian republics. And we are actively participating in different industrial exhibitions and fairs including ceramics exhibitions organized in Italy, Germany and Indonesia."

Tile production lines and method of operation:
Concerning the method of construction of the production line, engineer Ali Sarlak, STC's project director said: "During the second quarter of year 1371 (August-October 1992) we had already prepared all the drawings and technical specifications and layout for the overall factory and the construction of the foundations and different technical departments and lines. Transportation of

the machinery from Italy and their clearance from customs continued up to March 1992. Construction of the foundations for erection of the machinery began in March 1992 and was completed in November 1992 and while the civil works were in progress, 80 percent of the machinery were mounted on the foundations. After completion of physical installation of the machinery, we started the provisional acceptance process to ensure that the factory was capable of sustained,

steady and continuous operation with the aim of reaching an actual production capacity of 4 million sq. m of wall tiles according to the manufacturers' guaranteed specifications and agreed properties. In the meantime we started to employ personnel and by June 1995 we had hired a highly skilled team of engineers, technicians and administrative staff. In September 1995 we started to test our nominal capacity in the presence of Iranian and foreign experts and manufacturer representatives and after assuring that the nominal capacity

was successfully achieved, the factory was officially commissioned in November 1995."

Concerning the special features of Saveh Tile Company, the factory project director said: "STC enjoys the most modern and advanced machinery and is employing fast double firing kiln for manufacturing of tiles. One privilege of this system compared to other traditional systems is its extensive speed in the cooking time. In a biscuit kiln cooking system the cooking time is less than an hour

of the tiles or making any deformity in the smooth surface," Sarlak added.

Besides his fame as a successful engineer, Mahmoud Belgeiszadeh, the popular managing director of

out in a tunnel kiln the same process takes approximately 48 hours." Sarlak says in tunnel systems the factory is faced with many problems at the time of firing and extinguishing the kiln and the process takes a long time but in a two-channel fast double firing roller kiln, lighting and extinguishing of the kiln is done in the shortest space of time.

He said this system is the modern technology employed in Europe and the tiles manufactured by Saveh Tile Co. are capable of competing with the best products in the world.

"In this modern system the machinery of Saveh Tile Company are extensively flexible and the factory is capable of producing different size tiles including large size tiles, without changing the convexity and concavity

progressing Saveh Tile Company, is a sport fan and strongly believes in promotion of sport among his factory personnel.

Belgeiszadeh is a sportsman himself bred and raised educated in the tropical Khuzestan Province where every alley and streets produces a new athlete. His robust frame and rosy cheeks displays that he is a real sportsman himself and is well acquainted with that healthy profession.

What follows is the ex-



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and Technology, Pioneer in Iran's Tile Industry

cerpt of an interview with Belgeizadeh who continuously maintains that one should prove his words in action and refrain from giving false promises or uttering

the school and children are the main pillars of sports in a nation. No country can claim to be a sports promoter unless it provides necessary sports facilities in its schools for its children and ensure that sport is correctly followed at all the stages of education.

After the student completes his secondary schooling, he enters the university and from university he steps into a factory or an office.

Sports greatly elevates the spirits and morals of the factory personnel.

in the community. What action you have taken so far to promote sports in Saveh Tile Company?

A: Saveh Tile Company (STC) is a infant factory which has newly taken wing and the majority of our employees are between 19 to 20 years age group. With such a youthful manpower at hand it is imperative for an administrator to promote the healthy practice of physical exercise and sports. Meanwhile I must tell you that wherever I have worked I have paid special attention to sport and have invested a lot on sport. We have a 15,000 sq. m sports complex lying beside Saveh Tile Factory and intend to add another 3,000 sq. meters of land to that complex.

To build a volleyball yard, a football ground and tennis courts are projects that

ball games and to present ourselves on provincial and national level in the form of club

important sports competitions on the national level is a logical step towards that direction. On the other hand a factory with a large capital decides to

health-producing practice. In all countries which are advanced in sports, important clubs and prominent teams either belong to important factories or somehow advertise for large companies. I personally believe that with the rank achieved by our Islamic nation dynamic presence of factories in sports can

**Saveh Tile Co.
intends to actively
join sports.**

owner.
Q: What is your objective by owning a sports club or organizing club teams in non-labor organizations. Do you want to join nation-wide games or

**The factory is
equipped with two
channels of fast double
firing roller kilns and its extensive
line of production has the
capacity for third
firing design.**

are at the top of our agenda and gradually as we advance, we will create other fields of sports.
We have organized the Saadi Brick Sports Committee as one of the main departments of the factory and myself am a member of that committee. We have formed football, wrestling and tennis teams and have joined in wrestling and tennis and table tennis labor competitions in Saveh and have won the first award in table tennis and wrestling games in that city. This is the beginning of our sport ambitions and we are determined to progress in that field.

Q: Do you intend to participate in labor games only and encourage your workers to be sportsmen or you wish to expand and participate in club competitions and other general competitions on the national level and contribute to the nation's sport?

A: I think sports club associations and team formation in the country and activities in labor sector complement one another. For this reason we are identifying our athletes so that we can actively join in football, volleyball and basket-

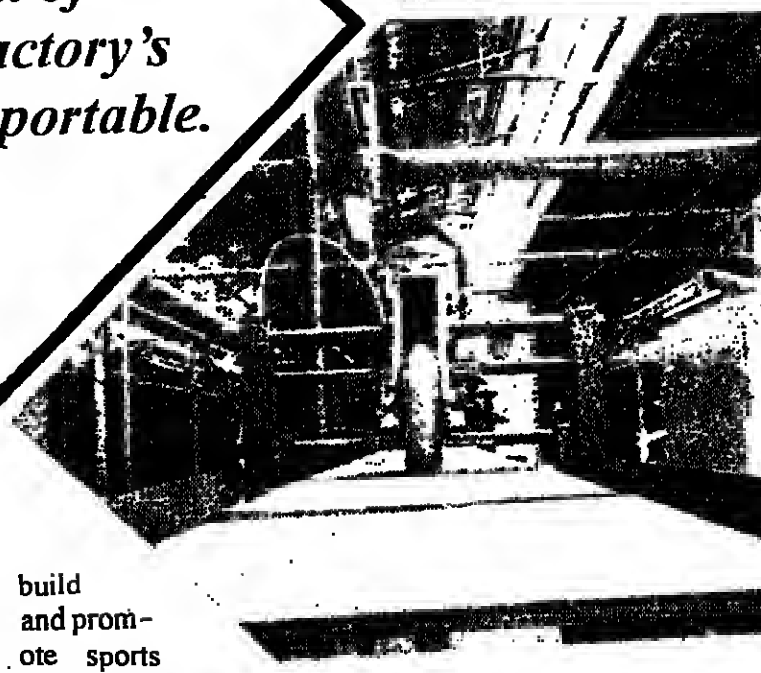
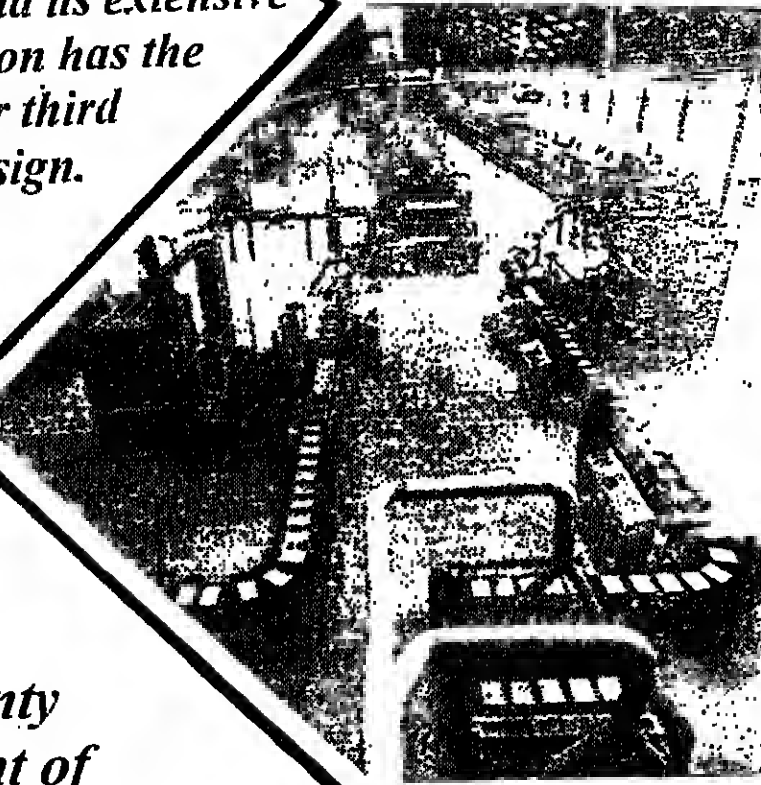
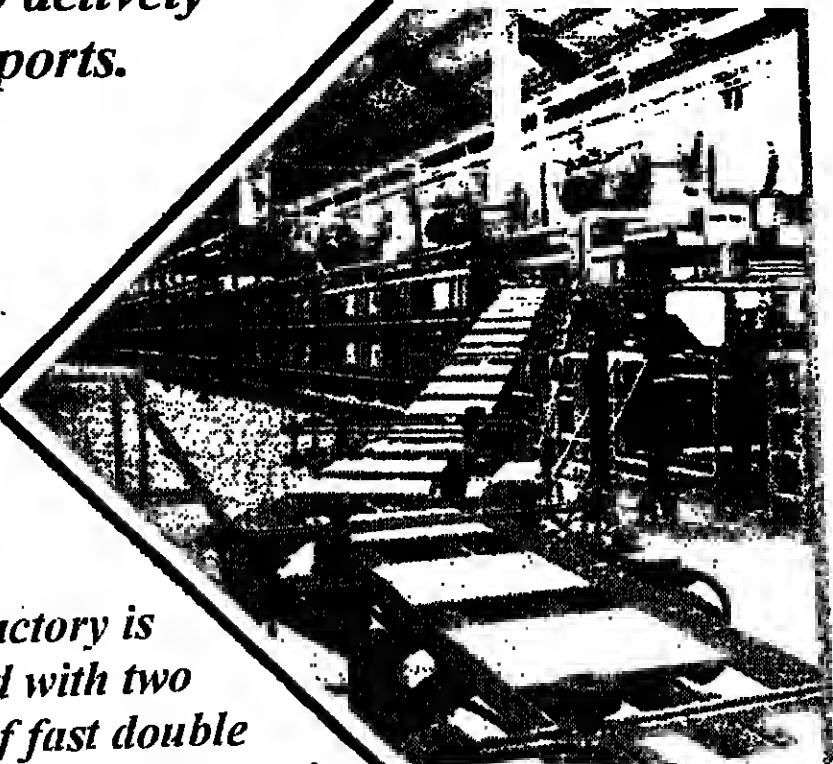
provincial games? Do you intend to advertise Saveh Company's tiles by joining sports activities or you only wish to promote sports in the country?

A: I must frankly confess that I have

**Seventy
percent of
Saveh Factory's
tiles are exportable.**

both these objectives in mind. Firstly, If a strong sports team affiliated to a large factory in the country emerges and gains fame in national competitions, it will represent an extensive advertisement at a reasonable cost. You know that the cost of advertisement is very high and in order to succeed in marketing a company must invest a large sum of its capital for advertisement. Presence in

build and promote sports which by itself contributes to physical education and promotion of that



baseless and empty slogans:
Q: As the managing director of Saveh Tile Co. which has a good name among manufacturers of tile, why have you decided to seriously engage in sports?

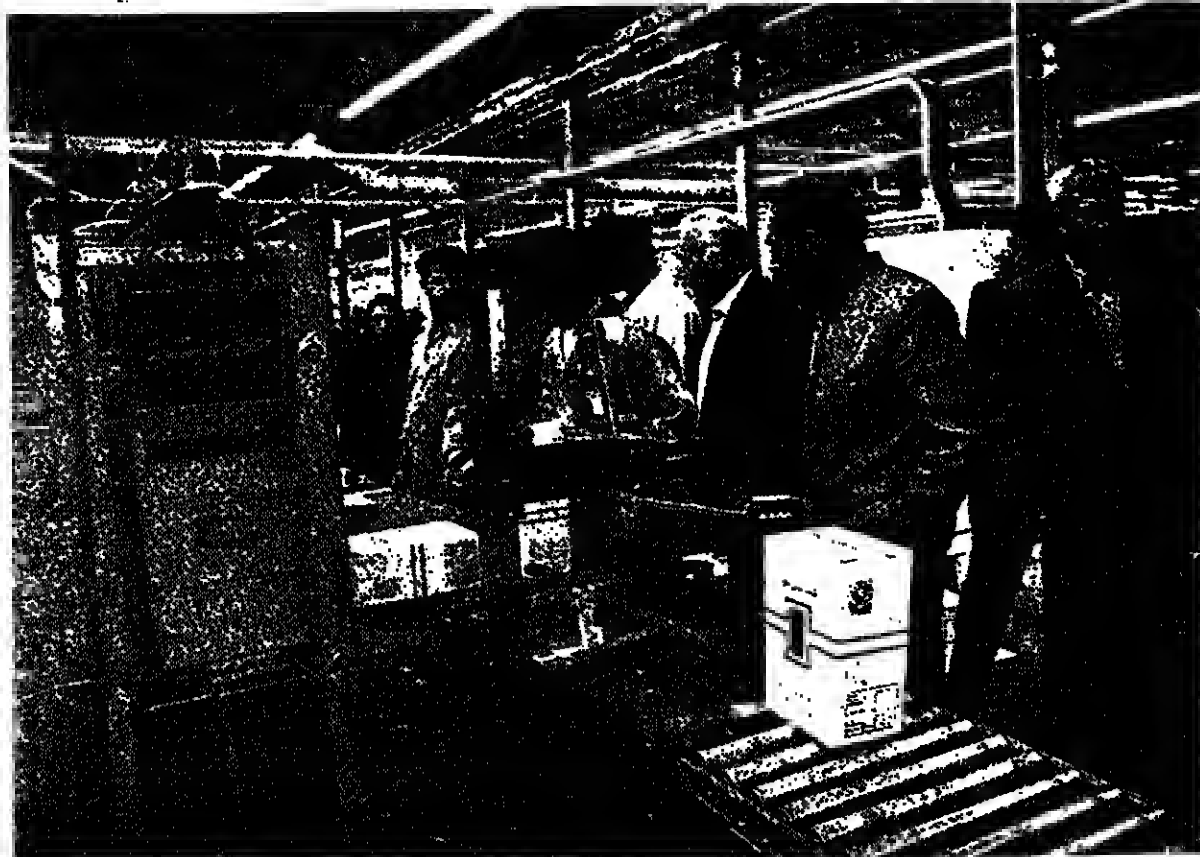
A: First of all I must tell you that I personally believe that sport must commence from the schools and be followed and perpetuated in factories. The fact is that a body of a child is built in

worker who makes physical exercise is much more robust, cheerful and his output is far better than another worker who does not engage in sports. Besides by physical exercise a worker is not deviated from correct morals or turn to a drug addict. In short if sport is considered an important element that can serve mankind, and this element is seriously accepted and encouraged by the community, our youth and our aged will achieve better physical and moral strength and well being.

Sports is a factor that prevents pessimism and depression and it is an instrument that prevents the worker from evading his duties.

Q: You speak about the benefits of sports and the need for expansion of sports

Those Who Seek A Good Tile, Refer to Saveh Tile Co.



sified and they exhibit a greater zeal for improvement and are eager to gain a good name for the factory that they work. Meanwhile, we are aware that such a solidarity will lead to team growth of a factory.

Q. Have you actually taken a step to introduce a team and send it to sports competitions?

A. We have made planning in this branch for the first quarter of year 1996 and although it was difficult for us to procure necessary funds, we succeeded to set aside money for sports in our overall budget and God willing we will march ac-

cording to our time schedule.

Q. Does sports really affect the labor and staff of a factory? What is the role of management in that connection?

A. When factory management introduces the significance into the plant, one way or other they become involved in sports activities and somehow turn a sportsman and sports fan and become involved and interested in competitions. Healthy and constructive competition in sports may add new blood and vigor to the sports activities and will develop sports in a country.

director of Saveh Tile Company.

He emphasized that morning exercise was a necessity that should be launched by factories. Besides giving fitness and health to the personnel of a factory, early morning exercise will each

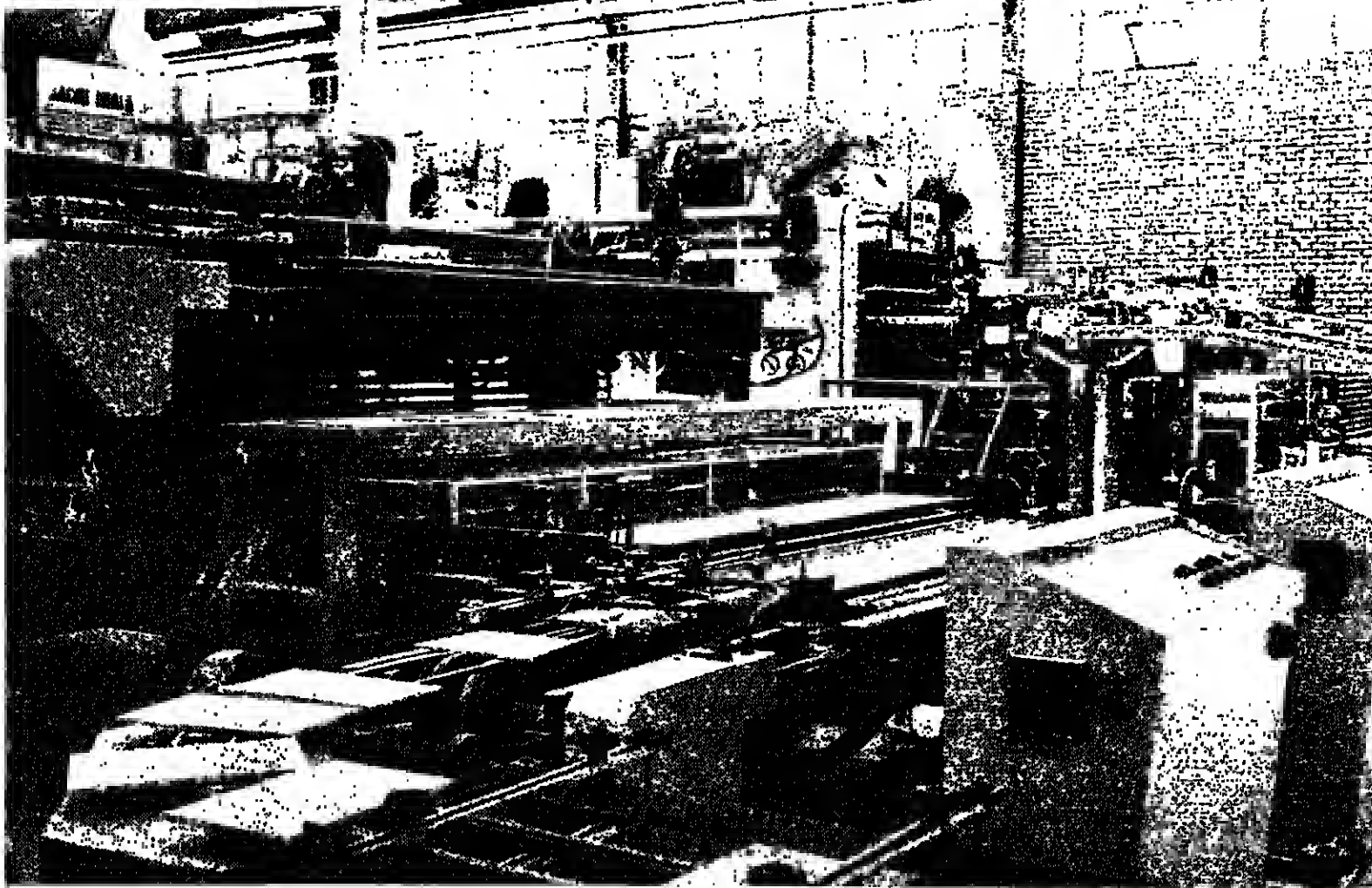
management introduced the significance of sports and physical education and the need to attend to body building and promotion of health.

"Every good and positive steps to promote sport in factories might begin with early morning exercise and every sports activity in a factory depends upon propagation and continuation of this early morning exercise," Belgeiszadeh emphasized.

greatly advance our sports. Besides that I must add that organizing and keeping sports clubs and sports teams by factories can have positive impact in the quality of their products and expansion of works.

When the name of a factory's team is mentioned, a great affinity is created be-

tween the workers and that team which results in a united effort for betterment of the factory's commodities trade mark. Normally the workers of a factory love their team and are very zealous that they should win. By creating such a feeling and incentive their unity and solidarity is inten-



According to Mahmoud Belgeiszadeh, the following milestones were achieved by Saveh Tile Company since November 1995:

* Saveh Tile Company which is equipped with the most advanced and modern equipment and machinery was inaugurated by Majlis Speaker Nateq-Nouri in November 1995.

* STC has a nominal capacity of 4 million cu. meters of wall tile in different sizes and patterns.

* 70 percent of STC's tiles are exportable to foreign countries.

* All the raw material fed to the factory's production line, is produced locally.

* With the exception of a limited number of spare parts, Saveh Tile Co. is not depended on foreign exchange.

* Market for tile is limited and there is close rivalry between tile manufactures.

* There are 28 tile manufactures all over the

country which makes marketing difficult.

* In order to obtain a fair share of the market, Saveh Tile Co. is always thinking to upgrade the quality of its tiles so that it can export them and earn foreign exchange for the nation.

* Should we operate with full capacity, by 1997 we can export approximately 1 m sq. meter of tile.

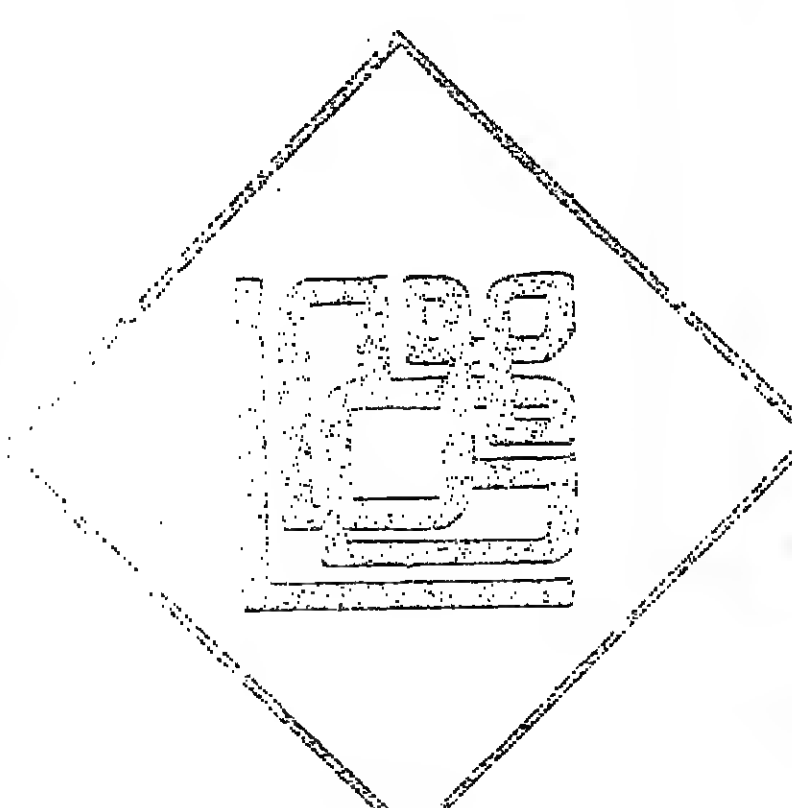
* From the beginning STC's tiles have shown their good quality and have been praised by the public, and those who seek better tiles, refer to Saveh Tile Co.

* Factory Location: Saveh Industrial Town.

Factory area: 12 hectares.

No. of employees: 380 persons.

* Saveh Tile Co. is affiliated to Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation.



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SAVEH TILE CO.

کدامت اول

Chechnya Peace Deal Viable Despite Flaws

MOSCOW (AFP) - The peace accord signed by Russian National Security Chief Alexander Lebed and Chechen rebel leaders leaves Chechnya's political status unclear, but it provides a real basis for ending the war, analysts said Saturday.

The postponement of a decision on Chechnya's status until December 31, 2001 represented a compromise by both sides on the issue at the heart of the 20-month conflict.

Lebed ruled out military force as an option, announcing that "we are stopping the war and we are withdrawing the (Russian) army."

Both sides agreed that legislation would be drawn up for Chechnya in the next five years to "preserve human rights, the right of people to self-determination and to enable the people to make their will known."

Although it was not clear who would draft the legislation, or whether there would be a referendum on independence, the joint statement signaled a softening of Moscow's position.

Previously Moscow had ruled out any compromise with the rebels over their demand for independence.

The Chechen separatists, who had previously insisted on immediate and full independence, agreed Saturday to postpone the issue for five years, by which time Lebed might have become the next Russian president.

The rebels' military success in Grozny, most of which they seized in a surprise offensive on August 6, forced the Russians to pull thousands of troops out of the city and the southern mountains, in what Chechens and Russian commentators saw as a defeat for the federal forces.

Rebel Vice President Said-Khassan Abumuslimov said the accord signed by Lebed and rebel military commander Aslan Maskhadov Saturday did not describe Chechnya as part of Russia, and "for us there is no change, Chechnya remains independent."

The rebels have been fighting for independence since Russia poured thousands of troops into Chechnya in December 1994, triggering a war which has cost more than 40,000 lives, mostly civilians.

Dmitry Trenin, a political analyst at the Carnegie Endowment in Moscow, said the accord was "a framework agreement for future work, not an agreement which settles all issues," but it was "clear that a political solution has replaced violence."

Andrei Piontkovsky, head of the center for strategic studies in Moscow, said demilitarization of Chechnya was "irreversible."

He said there were already signs of a chauvinist backlash in Russia, "but most ordinary people will be glad that the war has ended."

The Chechen rebels found that Lebed, a consistent critic of Russia's military intervention in the mainly Muslim North Caucasus Republic, was a partner they could deal with.

Maskhadov praised the retired Russian general, saying, "finally we found someone who wanted to end the war."

But analysts warned that Lebed still had political battles to fight in Moscow, where he has powerful enemies who still favor the military option to crush what they call the Chechen "bandit groups."

Lebed himself has demanded the dismissal of Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, who commands most of the Russian troops in Chechnya and is widely seen as hawkish.

Pro-Moscow Chechen Leader Dokku Zavgayev and Oleg Lobov, Lebed's predecessor on the powerful Russian Security Council, are also prominent among his political enemies, according to Piontkovsky.

"One cannot imagine a coalition government including the rebels and Zavgayev's supporters. Most of Zavgayev's followers will have to leave Chechnya, and they will fiercely oppose the accord," Piontkovsky said.

Yeltsin, too, has been "trying to

postpone the moment of truth," Piontkovsky told AFP.

"If the conflict is resolved, people will ask: 'Why did all those soldiers have to die?' and the question will be directed at Yeltsin."

The Russian president has voiced only lukewarm backing for Lebed's peace efforts, and refused to meet him before the latest round of peace talks.

A Western diplomat commented that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and some other senior officials "want to end the war as soon as possible, but they don't want Lebed to come back a hero, otherwise he will be unbeatable when presidential elections are held."

Despite the vagueness about Chechnya's political status, Piontkovsky pointed to the example of Tatarstan, a republic on the Volga with a large degree of autonomy from Moscow.

"The lesson of Tatarstan, whose constitution contradicts the Russian one, is that sometimes there can be no formal settlement of inter-ethnic problems, but one can turn a blind eye to the legal formalities."

Thousands of Muslims Gather in Columbus for Show of Unity

COLUMBUS, OHIO (AP) - Looking for a taste of Islamic rap music? Or maybe toothpaste and soap declared "Halal," permitted for use by Muslims because they contain no animal fat?

How about a video of Islamic cartoons, an Islamic road map to help you locate mosques throughout the United States, an alarm clock to wake you with a tiny "Allahu Akbar?"

It's all available with much more Islamic paraphernalia, and a lot of Muslim pride, at a four-day convention where thousands of Muslims have gathered in this heartland city from all over the United States and Canada. They're taking the opportunity not only to



KENTUCKY, FULTON, U.S.A.: U.S. President Bill Clinton greets the crowd during a stop on his campaign bus tour in Fulton, Kentucky Aug. 31.

(AFP Photo)

Incumbents Campaigning Hard on Bus Tour

MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY (AP) - President Clinton stepped up his attack on Bob Dole's proposed tax cut Saturday, saying the Republican nominee intends to give a break only to wealthy people "like me, who don't need it."

Taking his bus caravan to this hamlet deep inside tobacco country, which has never been visited

by a sitting president, Clinton conceded Dole's tax reductions are larger than his. But he said Dole's plan would pile costs onto the taxpayer through higher interest rates for mortgages, automobile loans and credit cards.

"That's true. They do offer more money," Clinton said. "They offer it to people like me, who don't need it. That would divide us and weaken our economy."

Pledging to build on the promise of the next century, Clinton and Vice President Al Gore are aggressively courting voters on Republican terrain as if they were the underdog ticket they were during their bus tour in 1992.

Clinton and Gore accepted the Democratic Party's nomination for a second term during a National Convention in Chicago this week, an event overshadowed somewhat by the resignation of a key Clinton adviser amid a sex scandal.

The democratic nominees arrived in Paducah late Friday and told newcomers Clinton-Gore is the answer for a forward-looking society, saying Republican challenger Bob Dole's vision is steeped in a bygone era.

In his weekly radio address Sat-

urday, Clinton stuck to his theme that the nation must look forward as it travels "on the right track to the 21st century" that his administration has set.

"This will be the age of great possibility for our people," Clinton said, culling for a tax break for homeowners who trade up to another home worth up to \$500,000 more. "This coming century can be the greatest moment in American history. We need to build a bridge to it."

Clinton used the same imagery in addressing a crowd of thousands who welcomed him to Paducah. "Are we going to build a bridge to the future or a bridge to the past?" he asked. "I want you to think about the kind of world our children will be living in."

Clinton and Gore, along with their wives, launched a four-state bus tour that sought to rekindle the bubbly spontaneity of their 1992 post-convention journey. This year's version winds from Missouri through Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee, with Clinton switching to Air Force One in Memphis Saturday night for a flight to his home of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee Decides More Work Needed, Eyes Conference in 1998

UNITED NATIONS (API) - Legal experts from around the world took an important step toward creating the first-ever permanent International Court to prosecute war crimes, genocide and other forms of aggression.

The experts agreed to try to finish preparatory work on establishing the court by April 1998 so that a conference can be convened later that year.

The International Criminal Court would try crimes against humanity when national tribunals are unavailable. Italy has offered to host the 1998 conference.

The push to establish such a court has grown following allegations of genocide in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Suspects in those crimes are now being tried in special, temporary tribunals.

The proposed tribunal would differ from the International Court of Justice in the Hague, also known

as the World Court, which decides cases between countries but does not prosecute individuals.

Government legal experts completed three weeks of discussions Friday in a preparatory committee formed by the U.N. General Assembly last December.

A 60-page draft statute recommends that the court hear cases whenever "national jurisdictions are either ineffective or incapable of undertaking prosecutions" of war crimes, aggression, genocide and "crimes covered by the provisions of international treaties."

For years, Washington had opposed establishing a permanent international criminal court, despite U.S. efforts to establish the 1945 Nuremberg Tribunal that prosecuted crimes committed in World War II.

But President Clinton announced U.S. support for the plan last year.

Secret Israel-PA Talks Set to Yield Major Peace Push

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Weeks of secret talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority are on the verge of yielding a series of "understandings" that will give a major push to the stalled peace process, the Jerusalem Post reported Sunday.

The English-language newspaper quoted a senior Israeli official as saying the talks "are in the advanced stages of obtaining understandings which will break the deadlock and give the peace process a real push."

The secret meetings began on August 13 and have been held in Tel Aviv at the home of U.N. peace coordinator Terje Larsen and his wife, Norwegian diplomat Mona Juul, the newspaper reported.

The Norwegian couple played a central role in the 1993 talks in Oslo which led to mutual recognition of Israel and Yasser Arafat's PLO and launched the Palestinian autonomy process.

The Jerusalem Post said the talks were led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's top foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold, and Arafat's senior Deputy Mahmud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen.

Netanyahu, who while repeatedly promising to pursue the peace process begun by the previous Labor government has taken few concrete steps in that direction since coming to office in mid-June, indirectly confirmed on Sunday that contacts with the Palestinians were underway and would soon yield results.

Asked on Israeli army radio about reports of an imminent meeting between himself and Yasser Arafat, Netanyahu said, "a meeting will take place when developments permit, and in fact there are currently all sorts of developments underway."

"You must be patient and wait one or two more days, but there are new developments," he said.

In its report, the Jerusalem Post said the understandings reached so far in the secret talks include Israel authorizing an increase from around 40,000 to 50,000 in the number of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel, a measure badly needed to ease economic problems in the Palestinian territories.

Netanyahu's office on Friday announced that the government planned to ease restrictions on the territories, but provided no details.

The Palestinians also agreed to new discussions on the terms for Israel's delayed withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron, to be followed by negotiations on further redeployment of the Israeli army from other zones in the West Bank as called for under the Oslo peace accords.

Those redeployments concern areas now under full Israeli control and cover about 70 percent of the West Bank territory which under the Oslo accords had been due to begin on September 7.

Israel in turn promised to authorize the opening of the first Palestinian airport in the southern Gaza Strip and to allow Arafat to fly unimpeded in his helicopter between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Concerning the emotional issue of Jerusalem, which both Israelis and Palestinians claim as their capital, the two sides have been working on verbal understandings that would not appear in the written agreement, the paper said.

In the unwritten accord, the Palestinian Authority would agree not to try and reopen offices it recently closed in East Jerusalem at Israel's

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FEATURE NEWS

New Russian Fighter Plane Buys Hopes for Moscow

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new Russian fighter said to be capable of amazing feats of agility goes on show next week, and with it rides Moscow's ambitions to be a major player again in the international arms market.

The Sukhoi SU-37 is expected to be the star attraction at Britain's Farnborough Air Show September 2-8, where throngs of potential buyers will get their first look at a fighter that the Russians say will revolutionize air-to-air combat.

The secret is a technology called Thrust Vector Control. The aircraft's two powerful engines are fitted with nozzles that can be moved hydraulically, steering the multi-role fighter into improbably sharp turns and steep angles of attack.

A fighter with Thrust Vector Control can outmaneuver any other in a dog fight, according to the Russians. The SU-37 will be the only supersonic fighter in the world with the system - although Britain's subsonic Harrier jump jet pioneered it - until the U.S. F-22 is fielded in 2004. None of the new European fighters offers the capability.

"These are the new planes of the new Russia," said Ariel Cohen, an expert on the Russian military at the Heritage Foundation.

"They're breaking through the veil of secrecy that enshrined this

highly prestigious sector of the Russian defense industry during the Soviet era. We'll see more and more of the Russian systems," he said.

Almost as surprising as the SU-37's technology is that it may be sold abroad before the Russian military gets it.

Russia has little choice, according to analysts here. To survive, its proud 80-year-old aeronautics industry - like other Russian defense industries - must sell in foreign countries and find new clients with hard currency.

In fact, the development of the SU-37 reportedly was financed by Sukhoi, with little official backing, through sales of SU-27s to Vietnam and China.

Even though the single-seat fighter has not yet been ordered by the Russian military, Sukhoi will be offering the SU-37 for export, an unusual step for the Russians but one that is not uncommon among European arms makers seeking to keep production lines open.

Aviation Week and Science Technology, the leading aeronautics weekly, reported that Sukhoi, which aims to become one of the top three exporters of combat aircraft in the world, developed the fighter with the Asian market in mind.

Price should be an added incentive. The Russians are known for

selling military hardware at prices well below those of comparable Western systems.

There are some signs Russia's marketing efforts are paying off. It landed \$6 billion in weapons contracts with developing countries last year, overtaking the United States and France for the first time since the end of the Cold War.

Sales to China, a longtime ideological rival, to India, a longtime client, and to Iran accounted for the surge, say U.S. experts, who are skeptical that the Russians can sustain the lead.

"They sold some Mig-29s to Malaysia and armored personnel carriers to the UAE, but by and large it tends to be to those countries that nobody else would sell to," said Joel Johnson, international vice president for the Washington-based Aerospace Industries Association.

"You have not seen major inroads in countries that can pay cash and are acceptable to other countries," he said.

China, which has bought 50 SU-27s and a production license, will continue to be a fertile market as Beijing modernizes its antiquated air force.

But it's a "Faustian bargain," said Richard Grimmit, who documented the surge in Russian arms sales for the U.S. Congress.

As former Soviet clients, China is a good match for Russian weapon systems, he said. But Russian licensing agreements may make Beijing a competitor in the Asian arms market. And as a longtime adversary of Russia with a long common border, China is far from the ideal client.

"I think that the Russians by selling modern, sophisticated and lethal weapons or the technology to produce them to China are selling the rope with which the Chinese can hang them," said Cohen. "The Russians had better wake up and smell the vodka."

China Is to Step up Punishment of String-Pulling Officials

BEIJING (AFP) - China is to step up punishment of officials who shield corrupt friends from prosecution by pulling strings with judicial authorities, or by building "a wall of silence" around the crimes," the Legal Daily said earlier.

"Some leading cadres instruct judges to be lenient with people they are connected to or they may try to protect the person by denying access to any incriminating information," it said.

One of the most frequently reported types of corruption in China is that of the local official bribed to close an eye to commercial fraud with offers of a slice of company profits, or perhaps a gleaming new car freshly smuggled in from Hong Kong, it said.

"If any large company in a province is threatened with an investigation then all the officials who have a finger in the pie often create a 'wall of silence' and together pull strings so the case is dropped," the paper said.

In other instances, corrupt judicial organs acquit people who are guilty, or falsely say they have frozen the accounts of a company found to have embezzled public funds, it added.

Reports of "local protectionism" have become so frequent, the paper said, that for the first time the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee has set up a group specifically to tackle the problem.

Apart from the obligatory "strengthening of ideological and political work," local authorities have been instructed to come down hard on all instances of corruption and punish "without mercy" all those involved.

Monopoly the Answer to British Olympic Woe

LONDON (AFP) - Britain could boost her gold medal count at the Sydney Games in 2000 if the board game Monopoly was made an Olympic sport.

That is the claim of Conservative politician Spencer Batiste who proposed his ingenious solution to the country's decline as an athletic superpower at the end of the British Monopoly championship on recently.

Britain's dismal performance at the Atlanta Games, where they won just one gold medal, has provoked a national debate about the state of the country's sport.

But after watching the excitement of the contest unfold in a hushed House of Commons, Batiste said Monopoly could provide just the boost British sport needs.

Batiste, who presented the winner Mike Grabsky with his trophy, said: "I can't see myself playing volleyball, but I can see me entering the Olympics as a Monopoly player, so I think it's a good idea."

"Now that they have got volleyball and synchronized swimming, I don't see why we shouldn't have Monopoly where far more skill is involved. We could even get a gold medal. It's a game that teaches you many valuable lessons in life, particularly not to trust those who offer you good deals."

Batiste praised the Monopoly contestants and fans for the electric atmosphere they generated, adding: "the atmosphere is so tense here - it's like Wembley before a game."

Contestants played with a total of 15,140 pounds (about \$22,000) in genuine Bank of England notes before Grabsky, a software designer, emerged victorious after two hours' wheeling and dealing.

Grabsky, who also won eight years ago, said: "I love bankrupting people. It's very, very fast, you've got the thrill of throwing the dice, everything moves very quickly."

"I've been playing for 24 years. I started at boarding school, because there were so many lads sitting round doing nothing."

Unfortunately for him, the cash was returned to the box at the end of the game.

But he is now set to fly off to Monte Carlo where he will compete in the World Monopoly Championships which have a cash prize of 15,000 pounds.

Monopoly first appeared in America in 1935. Since then more than 160 million sets have been sold worldwide.

The object of the game is to become the wealthiest player through buying, renting and selling property.

Dust Pollution Exposes Bangkok to Cancer

BANGKOK, THAILAND (AP) - Despite an attempted crackdown on building contractors, dust pollution levels in the Thai capital remain at deadly levels, exposing the population to lung cancer.

The Health Ministry warned this week that dust levels in central Bangkok - mostly from massive, uncovered building sites - are more than double the World Health Organization standards.

According to the study, cited in Bangkok newspapers recently, dust levels varied between 163 and 267 micrograms per cubic meter. The WHO maximum is 100.

Bangkok officials recently launched a crackdown on the dust-swirled building sites, issuing fines for contractors who fail

to use tarpaulins to contain dust.

But enforcement is spotty, and the accumulation of dust along the city's roads after a decade of unchecked construction seems to defy cleaning up.

The study showed that children in areas where extensive dust particles were found risked developing respiratory problems, chest pains and lung problems.

Lung cancer is a high risk for workers exposed to dust levels over a long period, the study said. It recommended such workers wear surgical masks as a short-term solution.

Bangkok is one of the world's most-polluted cities. Levels of some air pollutants from cars are 14 times higher than international standards set by the WHO.



NORTH ATLANTIC: Crew members aboard a salvage ship make an ill-fated attempt to pull up a section of the hull of the Titanic late Aug. 29. The ropes snapped early Aug. 30 plunging the 21-ton section of the ship 13,200 feet to the ocean bottom. Mandatory Credit: RMS Titanic/Discovery Channel Online AFP Photo

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